

**LETTERS ON SPECIAL  
PLEADING, BEING AN  
INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY  
OF THAT BRANCH OF THE LAW**

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Letters on Special Pleading, Being an Introduction to the Study of that Branch of the Law by  
Joseph Philips

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**JOSEPH PHILIPS**

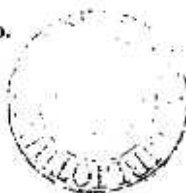
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—◆—  
*Second Edition,*  
REVISED AND ENLARGED.

—◆—  
BY  
JOSEPH PHILIPS, ESQ., M.A.,  
OF THE INNER TEMPLE, SPECIAL PLEADER.



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## ADVERTISEMENT

TO THE SECOND EDITION.



IN the present Edition, the Author, besides carefully revising the original one, has given additional matter where it seemed to be required without going beyond the scope and object explained in the former Preface, of a purely introductory essay, or first book for students of special pleading; it may be repeated here, that the Letters are designed to be read consecutively in the order in which they are written.





## PREFACE

TO THE FIRST EDITION.

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It is well known that the great majority of Common Law Students who enter at the Inns of Court, with a view of preparing for the Bar,—many of them fresh from the Universities, on commencing their studies in London know next to nothing about Law, and literally nothing about Special Pleading or the general business of the Pleader. In this state they enter chambers; and here the pupil undertakes his first case, has the range of the Library, and also the instruction and assistance of the pleader so far as he has time to give it.

The newness of the scene, the collection before him—books of Precedents, works on Pleading, on Contracts, on Torts or Wrongs, and again even large volumes on divisions merely and subdivisions of

these subjects,—the Reports, the Statutes,—all together tend to throw him into almost hopeless perplexity. He asks many questions, there are many others that he would like to ask, and which perhaps would only do him credit if he did ask, and yet he does not, partly from a fear of being thought wanting in apprehension, and partly from a desire not to occupy too much time with such inquiries; and the danger now is that his hesitation will turn into disgust or a settled indifference that may not afterwards be very easily overcome. I therefore think that a few Letters of a popular and easy character relating to the business of a Special Pleader, with a few illustrations, will not be unacceptable to those who are about to become Students at Law, and as yet know nothing of law; and I should wish by this means to convey to them some general notion of the subject, that both may in itself be useful, and may also enable them to see a little beyond the mist and confusion that they must encounter at the outset of their career. I do not pretend that within so small a compass, and in such a form, much knowledge of Law can be conveyed, but I think that by a slight sketch of the kind I propose, those for whom it is intended may be led to perceive that the task they have chosen is not by any means one of overwhelming difficulty, and that the mere technicalities being surmounted by some patience and industry, they have only before

them a very pleasant exercise for the intellect, and a course of reading and balancing of opinion, which independently of its being blended with their future prospects, is about to be of great service to them in improving and strengthening their understanding and judgment.

I should wish the Reader to take the following Letters consecutively in the order in which they are written.

J. PHILIPS.

1, *Mitre Court, Temple.*

