

**THE THEORY OF
CONTRACT IN
ITS SOCIAL LIGHT**

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The Theory of Contract in Its Social Light by W. A . Watt

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IN ITS SOCIAL LIGHT

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PREFACE

IN the following pages an attempt is made to investigate the fundamental conception and chief social relations of contract. That conception is admittedly in one sense an abstract one. Property more clearly suggests the living problems of modern society; wrong and crime indicate their relation to morality. Yet contract forces on our attention the importance of the distinctly juridical standpoint, which neither Ethics nor Economics can afford to ignore. It has therefore been suggested to me, that a statement regarding contract, brief, and not encumbered with technical details, might serve as a foot-note to Ethics and Economics; whilst it might also be useful for the legal student as an introductory chapter to the more practical parts of the law. That the conception is an interesting as well as a serviceable one, the questions raised in the text regarding Labour, Marriage, Socialism, etc., will help to show.

GLASGOW, *December* 1896.

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