THE INFLUENCE OF THE ROMAN LAW ON THE LAW OF ENGLAND

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The Influence of the Roman Law on the Law of England by Thomas Edward Scrutton

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THOMAS EDWARD SCRUTTON

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Trieste

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INFLUENCE OF THE ROMAN LAW

ON THE

LAW OF ENGLAND.

BEING THE YORKE PRIZE ESSAY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE FOR THE YEAR 1884:

BY

THOMAS EDWARD SCRUTTON,

M.A. LL.E. (LOND.), B.A. LL.B. (GAME.): BARRISTEN AT LAW; PROFESSOR OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AND RENTORY IN, AND FRILOW OF, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON: LATE SCHOLAR OF TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE: AUTHOR OF "THE LAWS OF COFFEIGHT," RENT THE VORE FRIZE RESAY FOR 1882.

> "Tu regere imperio populos, Romane, memento." VEBG. Acn. VI.

CAMBRIDGE: AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS. 1885.

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Cambridge : PRINTED BY C. J. CLAY, M.A. & SON, AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS.

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SIR ALFRED WILLS,

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ONE OF THE JUDGES OF THE QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION OF

HER MAJESTY'S HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE,

THIS WORK IS DEDICATED,

BOTH TO A JUDGE LEARNED IN OUR LAW

AND ITS HISTORY,

AND IN GRATITUDE FOR HIS KINDNESS TO

THE AUTHOR.

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PREFACE.

THE Yorke Prize of the University of Cambridge, to the establishment of which this work owes its existence, was founded about twelve years ago by Edmund Yorke, late Fellow of St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, and, under a scheme of the Court of Chancory, is given annually to that graduate of the University, of not more than seven years' standing from his first degree, who shall be the author of the best essay on some subject relating to the "Law of Property, its Principles, and History in various Ages and Countries." The subject prescribed for the year 1884 by the Adjudicators, (Arthur Cohen, Esq., Q.C., M.P., and R. Romer, Esq., Q.C.), was "The Influence of the Roman Law on the Law of England". The prize was awarded to the Essay bearing the motio: "Tu regere imperio populos, Romane, memento," which is now published in accordance with the conditions of the Award.

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The history of English law has yet to be written, but one of the most interesting chapters in that work of the future will be the one which deals with the subject of this Essay. I am far from imagining that the following pages afford an exhaustive or even adequate treatment of so important and difficult a question. To expect such a work to be written in ten months by a young man within seven years of his first degree would, I think, be asking too much even of "the omniscience of youth." Except in one instance, I do not pretend to have done more than collected and, to the best of my ability, criticized what