

**BREACH OF PROMISE: ITS HISTORY AND  
SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS: TO WHICH  
ARE ADDED A FEW PAGES ON THE  
LAW OF BREACH OF PROMISE AND A  
GLANCE AT MANY AMUSING CASES  
SINCE THE REIGN OF QUEEN ELIZABETH**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649404636

**Breach of Promise: Its History and Social Considerations: To Which Are Added a Few Pages on the Law of Breach of Promise and a Glance at Many Amusing Cases since the Reign of Queen Elizabeth** by Charles J. MacColla

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**CHARLES J. MACCOLLA**

**BREACH OF PROMISE: ITS HISTORY AND  
SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS: TO WHICH  
ARE ADDED A FEW PAGES ON THE  
LAW OF BREACH OF PROMISE AND A  
GLANCE AT MANY AMUSING CASES  
SINCE THE REIGN OF QUEEN ELIZABETH**



BREACH OF PROMISE

"THE FAERY QUEENE

Book 6; Canto xi.

Verse 1.

"The joys of love, if they should ever last  
Without affliction or disquietnesse,  
That worldly chavnnces doe amongst them cast,  
Would be on earth too great a blessednesse,  
Liker to heaven then mortall wretchednesse.  
Therefore the winged God to let men weet,  
That here on earth is no sure happinesse.  
A thousand soveres hath tempred with one sweet  
To make it seeme more deare and dainty, as is meet."

—SPENSER.

---

"What causes young people to 'come out' but the noble ambition of matrimony? What sends them trooping to watering-places? What keeps them dancing till five o'clock in the morning through a whole mortal season? What causes them to labour at pianoforte sonatas, and to learn four songs from a fashionable master at a guinea a lesson, and to play the harp if they have handsome arms and neat elbows, and to wear Lincoln Green toxophilite hats and feathers, but that they may bring down some 'desirable' young men with those killing bows and arrows of theirs?"

—THACKERAY.

# BREACH OF PROMISE

ITS HISTORY  
AND  
SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

TO WHICH ARE ADDED A FEW PAGES ON THE  
LAW OF BREACH OF PROMISE

AND  
A GLANCE AT MANY AMUSING CASES  
SINCE THE REIGN OF QUEEN ELIZABETH

BY  
CHARLES J. MACCOLLA



LONDON  
PICKERING & CO., 196 PICCADILLY

1879

*Printed by Porteous & Denholm, Edinburgh*



TO  
FARRER HERSCHELL, ESQUIRE, Q.C., M.P.  
RECORDER OF CARLISLE

THIS HUMBLE ATTEMPT  
TO ILLUSTRATE THE TRUE PHASES OF  
A GREAT SOCIAL QUESTION  
WHICH, IN HIS ZEAL FOR THE WELFARE OF OUR COUNTRY, HE  
HAS SO ABLY SHOWN TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

IS  
BY PERMISSION  
MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

Vertical line of text on the right side of the page, possibly a page number or header.

## PREFACE

**A** HETEROGENEOUS mass is disclosed under the auspices of the Action of Breach of Promise of Marriage. Wounded feelings! Loss of position! Marital disunion! Extortion! Damages!—these are the ingredients of this social mixture.

Our legislative physicians are in doubt as to the efficacy of their medicine, and they differ but little in this respect from a few medical men, perhaps, of the reader's own acquaintance.

The patient sufferers, the unfortunate public have also, it is needless to add, but little confidence in the beneficial results of the mixture. Experience shows that by taking the dose a part of the body is certainly benefited, while the greater part is injured, sometimes beyond remedy. Hence it is that two subjects, paramount in importance, both dealing with the social welfare of our country, are now among those uppermost in the public mind. They affect all sorts and conditions of men. No marvel, therefore, that so much interest has, during recent years, attached to the Action of Breach of Promise of Marriage, and to the question of Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister.

The altered condition of society has necessitated agitation on these questions throughout the length and breadth of England; and it is by no means