

**A TREATISE ON THE LAW AND  
PRACTICE OF BENEFIT BUILDING  
AND FREEHOLD LAND SOCIETIES:  
WITH AN APPENDIX OF RULES  
AND FORMS**

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A Treatise on the Law and Practice of Benefit Building and Freehold Land Societies: With an Appendix of Rules and Forms by William Whittaker Barry

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**WILLIAM WHITTAKER BARRY**

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ON  
THE LAW AND PRACTICE  
OF  
BENEFIT BUILDING  
AND  
FREEHOLD LAND SOCIETIES;

WITH AN  
APPENDIX OF RULES AND FORMS.

BY WILLIAM WHITTAKER BARRY,  
OF LINCOLN'S INN, ESQUIRE, BARRISTER-AT-LAW, AUTHOR OF "A TREATISE ON THE  
PRACTICE OF CONVEYANCING."

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1866.

## PREFACE.

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THE subject of Benefit Building Societies has already engaged the attention of several writers. Foremost among these stands Mr. Arthur Scratchley, the first edition of whose work appeared in 1849, the second in 1851, and the third in 1857, and forms Division II. of this writer's general treatise on Associations for Provident Investment. The author would wish, in the most particular manner, to express his acknowledgments of the great service the above work has been to him in the compilation of the present book, not only in the way of extract, but also as a means of ascertaining clearly the principles on which these societies are established, and their method of operation. It may not be generally known that Mr. Scratchley is the founder of the permanent form of Benefit Building Society; a great improvement on the old terminating plan, and which has added much to the stability and usefulness of these institutions. Mr. Scratchley has thoroughly mastered this subject and made it his own, and no one following

in his wake can fail to profit by such labours.  
*Palnam ferat qui meruit.*

In the years 1850 and 1851 three works by legal authors appeared, two of them by barristers, Messrs. W. Tidd Pratt and John Thompson, and the other by a solicitor, Mr. Stone. A second edition of Mr. Pratt's work was published last year. The author is under obligations to these writers, not only for statements scattered here and there throughout the following pages, but also for the means of obtaining information from other sources. The author has also received some assistance from the writings on this subject by Messrs. Charles Egan and J. H. James, and from Mr. Ward's treatise on investments.

Still, notwithstanding the efforts of preceding writers, it appeared to the author that a treatise, placing before the reader, whether lawyer or layman, a succinct account of the law and practice relating to Benefit Building and Freehold Land Societies, brought down to the present time, would prove welcome to many persons interested in these associations. With such object this work, which has already appeared in a serial shape in the columns of the *Law Times*, was undertaken.

The author has added in an Appendix some Rules and Forms, for liberty to print which he is indebted to Abraham Boyd Purcell, Esq., the

counsel of the Conservative Land Society, and to his old tutor, William Hanbury Jones, Esq., the eminent conveyancer. The author must also express his thanks to John Tidd Pratt, Esq., the Registrar of Friendly Societies, for the ready courtesy with which he furnished some valuable practical information.

More time and attention have been bestowed on the present little work than its size or subject would seem to warrant or require. But if the writer could bring himself to believe, that some of those who will perchance read the following pages, may in after years have reason to thank the author for having been the means, under Providence, of inducing them to purchase a house of their own, where the genial influences of home may have full scope for exercise, unaccompanied by the terrors of quarter-day, then he would feel that his labour has not been in vain.

15, OLD SQUARE, LINCOLN'S-INN,  
*October, 1866.*





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