

**ELEMENTS OF THE LAW  
OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS  
AND OF EMPLOYER AND  
EMPLOYED**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649571871

Elements of the Law of Domestic Relations and of Employer and Employed by Irving Browne

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**IRVING BROWNE**

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**LAW OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS**  
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**BY**  
**IRVING BROWNE.**

**SECOND EDITION, REVISED.**

**BOSTON:**  
**THE BOSTON BOOK COMPANY.**  
1890.

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University Press:  
JOHN WILSON AND SON, CAMBRIDGE.

## PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

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**T**HIS work is a sort of primer of the legal principles relating to the law of Domestic Relations. It is an attempt to present a brief but comprehensive summary of the body of this law, as it is furnished in the great works of Mr. Bishop and Mr. Schouler, bearing the same title, and in Mr. Wood's excellent treatise on Master and Servant.

It has long been a wonder to me that a novice can ever learn the laws from the great commentaries, so loaded with authorities, so hampered with distinctions, so diffuse in discussion; and it has seemed to me desirable that there should be elementary books to put into the hands of students, leading up to the commentaries. I have often felt, in my labors as practitioner, editor, reporter, and lecturer, that such books would frequently serve a useful purpose as manuals for those who have passed their novitiate, and who are called upon suddenly to refresh or confirm their memories, or direct their researches. I have endeavored to give references to the latest decisions, as an especial aid to practitioners. Such works as the present are not designed to supersede,

but to preface, and perhaps accompany, the elaborate treatises.

My obligations, in the present volume, to Mr. Bishop and Mr. Wood, and more especially to Mr. Schouler, are evident. These writers have exhausted their subjects. The art of the author of such a book as this consists in expressing principles with the greatest conciseness and simplicity, and in knowing what to leave out. How well I have succeeded in this task—not a very easy one—must be left to others to say. If I have in any degree simplified the learning of the law by the student, I shall be satisfied.

I. B.

ALBANY, Sept. 1, 1883.

## CONTENTS.

### CHAPTER I.

#### HUSBAND AND WIFE.

*Marriage.*—Blood, 1-3. Social condition, 3. Mental capacity, 3, 4. Physical capacity, 5. Age, 5, 6. Prior marriage, 6, 7. Force or fraud, 7-9. Evidence of the assent to the contract, 9-12. Foreign marriage, 12, 13.

### CHAPTER II.

#### HUSBAND AND WIFE.

*Duties, rights, liabilities, and disabilities.*—The common-law theory of marriage, 14, 15. Mutual duties, 15. Domicile, 15, 16. Right to person and society of wife, 15, 17. Right to restrain and chastise the wife, 17, 18. Right to testify, 18. Liability of husband for wife's debts, 18, 19. Wife's contract for necessaries,— what are and what are not necessaries for a married woman, 19-21. In what circumstances the husband may be bound for necessaries— where they live together, 21, 22; where they live apart, 22-25. Wife's agency other than for necessaries, 25, 26. Husband's liability for wife's wrongs, 26, 27. Husband's remedy for wrongs to wife, 27, 28.

### CHAPTER III.

#### HUSBAND AND WIFE.

*The wife's property at common law.*— Her personal property, 29-31. Her real estate,— leases for years, or chattels real, 31, 32; her real estate proper, 32-35. Death of the wife, 35, 36. Death of the husband, 36. Dower, 37, 38.

## CHAPTER IV.

## HUSBAND AND WIFE.

*The wife's separate estate, in equity, and under the modern statutes.* — The equity doctrine, 39-41. The modern statutes, 41-43. Wife's dominion over her separate estate, in equity, 43-45; under the modern statutes, 45-47. Dealings direct between husband and wife, 47-49. Wife's separate business and earnings 49, 51. Estoppel, 51, 52. Other contracts of wife, 53.

## CHAPTER V.

## HUSBAND AND WIFE.

*Will, settlements, and gifts.* — In general, 54, 55. Ante-nuptial settlements, 55-57. Post-nuptial settlements. 57-60. Constructive fraud, 60.

## CHAPTER VI.

## HUSBAND AND WIFE.

*Separation and divorce.* — Separation, 61, 62. Divorce, absolute, — for nullity of contract, 62, 63; by dissolution of contract, 63, 64. Divorce, limited, — for cruel and inhuman treatment, 64, 65; for such conduct as renders it unsafe and improper to cohabit, 66; for abandonment and refusal or neglect to provide, 66. Alimony, 66. Foreign divorces, 66, 67. Effects and incidents of divorce, 68, 69. Annulling divorce, 69.

## CHAPTER VII.

## PARENT AND CHILD.

*Children.* — Legitimate and illegitimate, 70, 71. Duties of parents, — protection, 71; education, 71, 72; maintenance, 72, 73. Agency of child, 74, 75. Rights of parents, — correction, 75; custody, 76-78; services and earnings, 78-80. The child's property, 80, 81. Parent's action for injury to child, 81-84. Liability for child's tort, 84, 85. Duties of children, 85. Rights of children, — emancipation, 85-87; after majority, 87; voluntary conveyances, 87; constructive fraud, 87, 88; advancements, 88. Illegitimate children, 89.

## CHAPTER VIII.

## GUARDIAN AND WARD.

Classification of guardians, 90, 91. Appointment, — by parent, 91; by the court, 92. Guardianship, how terminated, 92, 93. Rights and duties of guardian, — rights as to person, 94; duties as to person, 95, 96. Rights of foreign guardian as to person, 96. Rights and duties of guardian as to ward's estate generally, 97, 98; as to real estate, 99, 100; as to personal estate, 100, 101. Suits, 101. Joint guardians, 101. Guardians in fact, 101. Rights of foreign guardian as to property, 102. Sale of real estate, 102, 103. Rights and liabilities of the ward, 104, 105.

## CHAPTER IX.

## INFANCY.

General disabilities of infants, — holding office, 106; crimes, 106; testifying, 107; wills, 107; contracts, 107-109. Contracts binding the infant, — necessities, what are, 109; what are not, 110, 111; other contracts, 112. Ratification and avoidance of contract, 112-118. Injuries and frauds of infants, — committed by infants, 118-120; suffered by infants, 120, 121. Infants' suits, 122.

## CHAPTER X.

## MASTER AND SERVANT.

The relation and its rights generally, 123, 124. The creation of the relation, 124, 125. Termination of the relation, — disobedience, 126; moral misconduct, 126; negligence, 126, 127. Rights, duties, and liabilities of master toward servant, — his rights, 127; his duties, 127-129; his liability, 129, 130; contributory negligence, 130-132. Who are co-servants, 132-133. Rights, duties, and liabilities of servant toward master, 133-137. Liability of master to third persons, generally, 138, 139; for negligent acts, 139, 140; for wilful acts, 140-147. Liability of servant to third persons, 147, 148. Liability of third persons to master, 148.