

**A DIGEST OF THE LAW
RELATING TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES
AND MUSEUMS, AND LITERARY
AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS**

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A Digest of the Law Relating to Public Libraries and Museums, and Literary and Scientific Institutions by George F. Chambers

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GEORGE F. CHAMBERS

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DIGEST OF THE LAW

RELATING TO

Public Libraries

AND

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Literary and Scientific Institutions.

WITH

MUCH PRACTICAL INFORMATION USEFUL TO MANAGERS, COMMITTEES, AND OFFICERS,
OF ALL CLASSES OF ASSOCIATIONS AND CLUBS CONNECTED WITH LITERATURE,
SCIENCE, AND ART: INCLUDING PRECEDENTS OF BY-LAWS AND REGULATIONS,

The Statutes in full,

AND BRIEF NOTES OF LEADING CASES.

BY

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Second Edition.



LONDON:

STEVENS AND SONS, 119 CHANCERY LANE:

1879.

Preface to the Second Edition.

THE origin of this work is thus stated with sufficient detail, in the Preface to the first edition :—

“ This work owes its origin to an accidental circumstance. Some time ago I was called upon to advise on the powers possessed by Local Boards elected under the ‘ Local Government Act, 1858,’ with respect to Public Libraries and Museums. As such Boards had, however, at the time in question no powers whatever with regard to this matter, I subsequently assisted in framing a Bill to confer powers on them, which Bill being introduced into the House of Commons in 1871 by my friend Mr. J. G. Talbot, M.P., soon became the Statute 34 & 35 Vict., c. 71.

“ It was in consequence of finding, when engaged upon Mr. Talbot’s Bill, that there was no work in existence on the several Libraries Acts that I was led to think there might be room for such a publication as that now in the hands of the reader.

“ Intended as it is, as much for the General Public as for the Profession, it has been prepared with especial attention to clearness of arrangement and facility of reference, and will be found, it is believed, to present a complete view of the subject to which it relates, a subject which it may be hoped will, under the stimulus supplied by the Educational tendencies of the day, soon receive more attention at the hands of Ratepayers than has hitherto been the case.”

Contrary to my expectation, and in spite of its limited scope, the book became more in request than I had anticipated; and the question arose whether it might not be worth while to increase its usefulness by making it a book of general reference on the Law relating to all kinds of Institutions connected with Literature, Science, and Art. This idea has been carried out in the second edition. If the results seem rather meagre, and the present contents rather miscellaneous, the fact is due to the scarcity of the materials available. So far, however, as Statute and Case Law is concerned, I do not think that anything of importance has been omitted.

One obvious reason why materials for a work like this are not very abundant is that such a large number of Literary and Scientific Societies derive their legal status not from Statutes at all, but from Royal Charters, or voluntary Trust Deeds, or informal agreements, which, except in the rare cases of litigation amongst the members, never in print come under the notice of lawyers.

Mr. *H. J. Hood*, of the Equity Bar, has rendered me valuable assistance in the preparation of the Notes of Cases, and generally in the reading of the proofs of the book.

G. J. C.

Temple,
March, 1879.

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