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THE
MOST MATERIAL PARTS
OF
BLACKSTONE'S COMMENTARIES,
REDUCED TO
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

BY
JOHN C. DEVEREUX,
COUNSELLOR AT LAW.

UPON THE PLAN AND IN THE PLACE OF KINNE'S BLACKSTONE.

NEW EDITION.

REVISED AND CORRECTED BY A MEMBER OF THE
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P R E F A C E .

Nor only the student of our Common Law, wherever he enters upon the task of acquiring its elementary parts, but its practitioners as well, and indeed all, of every pursuit in life, here, and in the mother land, who have occasion to know the obligations under which society places them, are largely indebted to Sir William Blackstone; whose proudest distinction it is, that, although a great lawyer and an eminent judge, he was the author of the "Commentaries on the Laws of England."

They were written and published between the years 1753 and 1770; when, we are assured, the way of the Common Law, to the student, was rough indeed, and obstructed with thorns and brambles, which, as yet, no other skillful and friendly hand had even attempted to remove.

The commentator was a *belles-lettres* scholar, of acquirement and taste—even a poet. About 1741, when, in his eighteenth year, he had just concluded upon the law as his profession, his own muse presents the contrast, not an inviting one, between pursuits he was to abandon and those which were, thenceforth, to form for him the serious business of life:

"Shakspeare no more, thy sylvan son,
Nor all the art of Addison,
Pope's heaven-strung lyre, nor Waller's ease,
Nor Milton's mighty self must please;
Instead of these, a formal band
In furs and coils around me stand,