

LEGISLATIVE METHODS
AND FORMS

SIR COURTENAY ILBERT

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BY

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PREFACE

THE contents of this volume are based on memoranda and other papers written at various times on subjects connected with my official work. Such value as they may possess arises from their representing more than thirty years' experience in the preparation of legislative measures both in England and in India. I have endeavoured to avoid subjects which have been already treated of by other writers, and to confine myself to matters about which I can speak from personal knowledge, and therefore with some degree of confidence and authority.

In dealing with my subject-matter, I have, of course, considered myself bound by rules of official reticence, but, notwithstanding the restrictions thus imposed, I cannot help thinking that the book may be useful and interesting both to the practical legislator and to the student of political institutions. Chapters I and X might even detain the eye of the general reader.

Chapter I is an attempt to trace, in broad historical outline, the relations between the common or customary law of this country and its enacted or statute law, and to compare them with the relations existing between customary law and statute law in France and Germany.

Chapter II describes the contents of the English Statute Book.

The greater part of these two chapters has appeared as articles in the *Journal of the Society of Comparative Legislation*.

Chapter III deals with what I have called subordinate