

To Hon. U. M. Rose, of Little Rock, Ark., the origin of this work is due. It was his project; which ill health and the demands of an active practice compelled him to relinquish into less competent hands.

The fact that at the present day the transportation either of goods or passengers is seldom undertaken except under a contract exempting the Carrier from a part if not all of his common law liabilities, presents a sufficient reason for the appearance of this book.

The fact that all previous Treatises on the Law of Common Carriers have endeavored to cover the whole field of the duties and responsibilities of the Carrier under all circumstances, and have, therefore, been able to give but small space to the topics of the following pages, removes this Treatise from the criticism that it is upon a subject already well discussed.

It is thought that this work will be of some value to all who have any dealings with the class of which it treats. It presents, besides a statement of the law as it stands, a sketch of the ancient liability of the Common Carrier; the relaxation of those strict rules and the confusion and evil which have resulted therefrom. Whether public policy as a safeguard against corporate monopoly will not soon require a return to the doctrines which the wisdom of our ancestors established, is a question upon which discussion has just commenced, but which has already been answered in the affirmative in more than one of the States. J. D. L.

St. Louis, February 26, 1880.