

## PREFACE

TO THE NINTH EDITION.

THIS Work has been re-arranged in the present Edition by bringing together all those parts of it which relate to Contracts in General: so that the first portion, viz., Book I., is a complete treatise on the Law of Contracts, and the second portion, viz., Book II., contains the particular law and customs relating to certain well-known kinds of contracts. There is also added (as an Appendix) a chapter on "Stamps," where will be found all the provisions of the new Consolidation Act of 1891, so far as they have any bearing on the Law of Contracts.

Whilst the last Edition was going through the press, the Married Women's Property Act, 1882, and the Bills of Exchange Act, 1882, were passed, and those statutes were printed in an Appendix to that Edition. They are now incorporated in the text.

A considerable saving of space has been attained by carefully revising the text, by restraining the redundancy of the language, by excluding repetitions of statements, by a cautious weeding out of obsolete cases while generally referring to their names in the notes, and by the excision of such matter as appeared to