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HANDBOOK

OF

ADMIRALTY LAW

By ROBERT M. HUGHES, M. A.

Of the Norfolk (Va.) Bar

ST. PAUL, MINN.
WEST PUBLISHING CO.

1901

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U-39436-62

This volume is respectfully dedicated to

Hon. NATHAN GOFF,

A genial and noble man,
An urbane, upright,
and able judge.

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PREFACE.

The germ of this treatise is a series of lectures on admiralty law, which the author has been giving to the senior law class at Washington and Lee University for the past few years. His experience there has emphasized the need of a text-book on marine law. Probably the lack of such a text-book is the explanation of the scant attention given to the subject in the law schools; but its constantly increasing importance seems now to demand more elaborate treatment than it has heretofore received. This is especially true in view of the recent important legislation bearing upon the subject, and its intimate connection with many other topics which are usually treated more fully, such as the law of carriers and the general substantive law in relation both to contracts and to torts. To meet the need of such a text-book, this treatise has been prepared. It is intended to be elementary, and is so arranged that those schools which give but slight attention to the subject of admiralty can use it by omitting certain chapters, and those which desire to give it more emphasis can supplement the text by the use of the table of leading cases, which are printed in large capitals throughout the book, and for which a special index has been prepared, giving an outline of the points passed upon by them.

The author hopes, also, that the book will be found useful to the very large class of general practitioners who wish to be in position to answer ordinary routine questions of admiralty law arising in practice. The failure of the law schools to treat this subject at any length results in the failure of the young bar generally to know anything about