SALMOND
ON THE
LAW OF TORTS

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BY THE AUTHOR

TO THE MEMORY OF

MY SON

WILLIAM GUTHRIE SALMOND

A CAPTAIN IN THE NEW ZEALAND ARMY

WHO IN FRANCE ON THE 9TH DAY OF JULY, 1918

GAVE UP HIS LIFE

IN THE TWENTY-SIXTH YEAR OF HIS AGE
FROM THE PREFACE TO THE SEVENTH EDITION

As this is the first edition of this work for which the late distinguished author is not himself responsible, perhaps rather more is required by way of preface than would otherwise be the case.

The editor of a book by a deceased author of world-wide reputation has to steer between Scylla and Charybdis. It has been recently well said that it is a most common, but nevertheless a most serious, demerit in English legal textbooks of reputation that in the course of time in the hands of successive editors they grow longer and longer by the addition of recent cases, while the older matter is allowed—out of respect for their distinguished authors, or because of what the editors deem to be the limits of their task—to remain as a source of confusion to the reader when it has become out of date and even inaccurate. That is Scylla. On the other hand, there is a temptation for an editor to substitute his own views for those of the author without distinguishing what is his own. That is Charybdis, for he has no ground to expect that his own views will carry the same weight as those of a distinguished author whose opinions have been frequently cited with respect by His Majesty’s judges.

In this difficult navigation I have guided myself by one general principle: that the present edition shall be as good a book as I can make it, whilst never forgetting that it is Sir John Salmond’s book and not my own.

W. T. S. S.

Oxford

June 10, 1928