

LEGAL POINTS FOR AUTOMOBILE OWNERS

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Legal Points for Automobile Owners by Leslie Childs

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LESLIE CHILDS

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By
LESLIE CHILDS

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PREFACE.

The automobile has come to stay and along with it has grown laws to regulate and govern its use. Many car owners have learned some of these rules, in the bitter school of experience, at the cost of long drawn out and expensive damage suits. Much of this could have been avoided had the owner known of his liability, in the operation of his car, and been governed accordingly.

Ignorance of the law will not excuse after one's car has been an agent of destruction, possibly maiming or killing an innocent person. The time to learn of responsibilities is before an accident occurs.

The compiler has endeavored to set out, in a few words, the general rules governing the operation of automobiles, and the liabilities for violations thereof.

This is in no sense a text book, is not intended for the use of lawyers, or others learned in the law, but for the man in the street, the farmer, the business or professional man, in fact any owner of a car.

The subject has been treated briefly to better insure the reading thereof, realizing that if it were long or involved it might become wearisome to the average man and defeat the very purpose of its writing. Some cases have been given in the foot notes for the convenience of those who might care to read deeper into the subject.

HISTORY OF THE AUTOMOBILE.

The automobile, as we know it today, is truly a modern vehicle, having its birth, and a most remarkable growth, within the last twenty years. In 1900 there were comparatively few automobiles within the bounds of the United States, sixteen years later, there were upwards of 3,000,000.

The automobile is, however, the direct outgrowth, if the term may be used, of the early steam vehicles, the first being proposed by Sir Isaac Newton as early as 1680. In 1769 Nicholas Joseph Cugnot, a Frenchman, constructed two steam carriages, one of which is still preserved in Paris.

In 1802 Richard Trevithick built a steam carriage which was driven from Camborne to London, a distance of ninety miles. From that time until 1893,