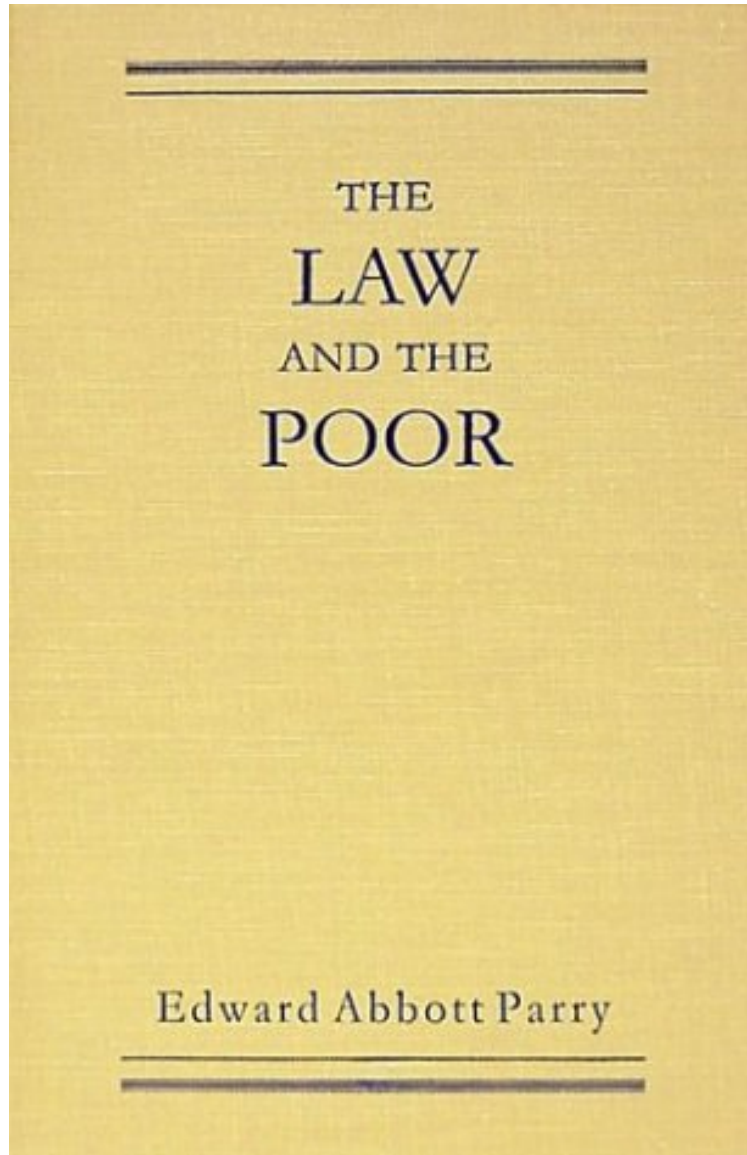


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The Law and the Poor

Edward Abbott Parry

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Edward Abbott Parry : The Law and the Poor before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Law and the Poor:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Strange Read By J. Bean The Law and the Poor is an odd book. It enumerates some of the ways by which the British legal system into the 1920s either excluded or oppressed the poorer classes. Parry dwells at tedious length with the debacle that was debtors' prison, but has no solution but a belief that time will somehow mediate not only the problem of debtors' prison but all other legal inequities. What Parry expressed

(repeatedly) could have been thoroughly covered in about 10 pages. Alas, his book was far longer than that. Only Parry's ability to cite from just about any text written after 1789 makes this book tolerable. I admittedly was amused at the succession of characters Parry inserted into his book. Unfortunately, if you are not extremely well-versed in Victorian history and literature, you'll miss much: Parry draws on the very obscure as often as he does on the famous. For me it was a hoot only because Victorian history is my field. The Kindle download is free; don't waste your money purchasing this book.

Parry, Edward Abbott. *The Law and the Poor*. London: Smith, Elder Co., 1914. xxi, 316 pp. Reprint available 2003 by The Lawbook Exchange, Ltd. ISBN 1-58477-354-5. Cloth \$70. Reprint of first edition. Parry [1863-1953] was an English municipal judge for over twenty years. His book, a guide for "the man in the street," which began as a series of newspaper articles, outlines the laws concerning insolvency, debt and poverty. It is distinguished by its emphasis on cultural attitudes toward the poor, and its readability and humanity. Parry's was among the strong voices to speak in sympathy to the poor in response to the Poor Law Amendment Act which had been enacted in 1834. "Judge Parry is particularly gifted with that rare imagination which enables him to see mortal men and women where others see cases, litigants, and parties before the courts. Hence his volume is a rare document, especially useful as a corrective to the tendency to lose sight of actual living conditions in the logical pursuit of abstract legal doctrines." Cohen, *Law and Social Order* cited in Marke, *A Catalogue of the Law Collection at New York University* (1953) 810.