

**INTERNAL MEMORANDUM / FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

Tucker's "Editor's Preface" "On the Study of Law" in his edition of Blackstone's Commentaries.

 <p><b>INTERNAL MEMORANDUM For Internal Use Only</b></p>	<p><b>The Unalienable Rights Foundation</b></p> <p>P.O. Box 65002 Virginia Beach, Virginia 23467-5002</p> <p>Telephone 757-818-8003 Fax 757.282.2424 E-Mail UnalienableRights@uarf.us</p>	
---	---	---

1 "On the Study of Law" was Tucker's "Editor's Preface" to his edition of  
 2 Blackstone's Commentaries. In it he surveys the conditions for the study of law  
 3 in the United States. But his chief concern is how to Americanize (or  
 4 Virginianize) and republicanize a work so essential as Blackstone, yet so  
 5 suffused with monarchical principles. It is this goal that justifies the numerous  
 6 appendices that he has added to the work, each an essay on a particular area  
 7 for which Blackstone is an inadequate guide for American students. Two of the  
 8 most important essays are those on the Constitution of the United States and  
 9 the Constitution of Virginia. Tucker stresses that American constitutions are  
 10 written declarations ratified by the people of the states, and they are to be

\*Disclaimers: [1]Regarding Electronic Signature: If this communication concerns the negotiation of a contract or agreement, electronic signature rules do not apply to this communication: [2] contract formation in this matter shall occur only with manually-affixed original signatures on original documents. [3] No negotiations respecting any item ( including repairs), such as talking about that/any item (s)or securing estimates for same shall not in any way obligate The Unalienable Rights Foundation [UARF] to that item or repair(s) discussed, nor shall UARF or its Client be held liable for any damage(s)for failure not to include/honor the same unless obligated to do so by the terms set forth in a contract negotiated by the parties with the aforesaid manually affixed signatures. The foregoing comments are copyright © MMXII UARF and may not be copied, redistributed, extracted from, or recirculated outside of this mailing without written consent by UARF.

**INTERNAL MEMORANDUM / FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

Tucker's "Editor's Preface" "On the Study of Law" in his edition of Blackstone's Commentaries.

11 interpreted through their plain texts and through the instruments of the people's  
12 consent, and not by speculative writers on government or by office-holders, the  
13 people's delegates. Other important questions for Tucker are to what extent the  
14 common law is operative in the United States, and what are the boundaries of  
15 federal and state judicial jurisdiction. Finally, Tucker assures fledgling lawyers  
16 that, as future framers of law, they must have a knowledge of the constitutions  
17 and history of their country, as well as of law itself, if liberty is to be preserved.

18 When A Work of established reputation is offered to the public in a new dress,  
19 it is to be expected that the Editor should assign such reasons for so doing, as  
20 may not only exempt him from the imputation of a rash presumption, but shew  
21 that some benefit may be reasonably expected to result from his labours.

22 Until the Commentaries on the laws of England by the late Justice Blackstone  
23 made their appearance, the students of law in England, and its dependencies,  
24 were almost destitute of any scientific guide to conduct their studies. "A raw and  
25 unexperienced youth," he remarks, "in the most dangerous season of life is  
26 transplanted on a sudden into the midst of allurements to pleasure without any  
27 restraint or check, but what his own prudence can suggest; with no public  
28 direction in what course to pursue his inquiries; no private assistance to remove

\*Disclaimers: [1]Regarding Electronic Signature: If this communication concerns the negotiation of a contract or agreement, electronic signature rules do not apply to this communication: [2] contract formation in this matter shall occur only with manually-affixed original signatures on original documents. [3] No negotiations respecting any item ( including repairs), such as talking about that/any item (s)or securing estimates for same shall not in any way obligate The Unalienable Rights Foundation [UARF] to that item or repair(s) discussed, nor shall UARF or its Client be held liable for any damage(s)for failure not to include/honor the same unless obligated to do so by the terms set forth in a contract negotiated by the parties with the aforesaid manually affixed signatures. The foregoing comments are copyright © MMXII UARF and may not be copied, redistributed, extracted from, or recirculated outside of this mailing without written consent by UARF.

**INTERNAL MEMORANDUM / FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

Tucker's "Editor's Preface" "On the Study of Law" in his edition of Blackstone's Commentaries.

29 the distresses and difficulties which always embarrass a beginner. In this  
30 situation he is expected to sequester himself from the world, and by a tedious  
31 lonely process to extract the theory of law from a mass of undigested learning."  
32 "How little, therefore, is it to be wondered at" he adds, "that we hear of so  
33 frequent miscarriages, that so many gentlemen of bright imaginations grow  
34 weary of so unpromising a search; and that so many persons of moderate  
35 capacity confuse themselves at first setting out, and continue ever dark and  
36 puzzled during the remainder of their lives!" Such is the picture which our author  
37 gives us of the difficulties which at that time attended the study of the law, even  
38 in those Inns of court whither those who sought to acquire a knowledge of the  
39 profession, generally repaired for instruction. On the appearance of the  
40 Commentaries, the laws of England, from a rude chaos, instantly assumed the  
41 semblance of a regular system. The viginti annorum lucubrationes it was thought  
42 might thereafter be dispensed with, and the student who had read the  
43 Commentaries three or four times over, was lead to believe that he was a  
44 thorough proficient in the law, without further labour, or assistance; the crude  
45 and immethodical labours of Sir Edward Coke were laid aside, and that rich mine  
46 of learning, his Commentary upon Littleton, was thought to be no longer worthy  
47 of the labour requisite for extracting its precious ore. This sudden revolution in  
48 the course of study may be considered as having produced effects almost as

\*Disclaimers: [1]Regarding Electronic Signature: If this communication concerns the negotiation of a contract or agreement, electronic signature rules do not apply to this communication: [2] contract formation in this matter shall occur only with manually-affixed original signatures on original documents. [3] No negotiations respecting any item ( including repairs), such as talking about that/any item (s)or securing estimates for same shall not in any way obligate The Unalienable Rights Foundation [UARF] to that item or repair(s) discussed, nor shall UARF or its Client be held liable for any damage(s)for failure not to include/honor the same unless obligated to do so by the terms set forth in a contract negotiated by the parties with the aforesaid manually affixed signatures. The foregoing comments are copyright © MMXII UARF and may not be copied, redistributed, extracted from, or recirculated outside of this mailing without written consent by UARF.

**INTERNAL MEMORANDUM / FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

Tucker's "Editor's Preface" "On the Study of Law" in his edition of Blackstone's Commentaries.

49 pernicious as the want of a regular and systematic guide, since it cannot be  
50 doubted that it has contributed to usher into the profession a great number,  
51 whose superficial knowledge of the law has been almost as soon forgotten, as  
52 acquired. And this evil we may venture to pronounce has been much greater in  
53 the Colonies dependent upon Great-Britain, than in England itself, for the laws  
54 of the Colonies not being at all interwoven with the Commentaries, the colonial  
55 student was wholly without a guide in some of the most important points, of  
56 which he should have been informed; admitting that he were acquainted with  
57 the law of England upon any particular subject, it was an equal chance that he  
58 was ignorant of the changes introduced into the colonial codes; which either  
59 from inexperience, inattention, or other accidental circumstances have  
60 undergone a variety of modifications, provisions, suspensions, and repeals, in  
61 almost all the colonies dependent upon great Britain. The Commentaries,  
62 therefore though universally resorted to as a guide to the colonial student, were  
63 very inadequate to the formation of a lawyer, without other assistance; that  
64 assistance from the partial editions of colonial laws (at least in Virginia) was  
65 extremely difficult to be obtained. Few gentlemen, even of the profession, in this  
66 country, have ever been able to boast of possessing a complete collection of its  
67 laws; the Editor confesses that his own endeavours to procure one have hitherto  
68 been ineffectual.

\*Disclaimers: [1]Regarding Electronic Signature: If this communication concerns the negotiation of a contract or agreement, electronic signature rules do not apply to this communication: [2] contract formation in this matter shall occur only with manually-affixed original signatures on original documents. [3] No negotiations respecting any item ( including repairs), such as talking about that/any item (s)or securing estimates for same shall not in any way obligate The Unalienable Rights Foundation [UARF] to that item or repair(s) discussed, nor shall UARF or its Client be held liable for any damage(s)for failure not to include/honor the same unless obligated to do so by the terms set forth in a contract negotiated by the parties with the aforesaid manually affixed signatures. The foregoing comments are copyright © MMXII UARF and may not be copied, redistributed, extracted from, or recirculated outside of this mailing without written consent by UARF.

**INTERNAL MEMORANDUM / FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

Tucker's "Editor's Preface" "On the Study of Law" in his edition of Blackstone's Commentaries.

69 Not many years after the reception of the Commentaries into the libraries of  
70 gentlemen of the profession, and the adoption of them as a guide to those who  
71 wished to acquire it, the revolution which separated the present United States  
72 of America from Great Britain took effect; this event produced a corresponding  
73 revolution not only in the principles of our government, but in the laws which  
74 relate to property, and in a variety of other cases, equally contradictory to the  
75 law, and irreconcilable to the principles contained in the Commentaries. From  
76 this period, that celebrated work could only be safely relied on as a methodical  
77 guide, in delineating the general outlines of law in the United States, or at most,  
78 in apprizing the student of what the law had been; to know what it now is, he  
79 must resort to very different sources of information; these, although the period  
80 which has elapsed since their first introduction is scarcely more than twenty  
81 years, are now so numerous, (at least in this state) and so difficult to be  
82 procured, that not one in fifty students of law has at this day any chance of  
83 perusing them.

84 Notwithstanding these circumstances, the Commentaries have continued to be  
85 regarded as the student's guide, in the United States; and many there are, who  
86 without any other aid have been successful candidates for admission to the bar  
87 in this state, and perhaps in others: it cannot, therefore, be surprising that so

\*Disclaimers: [1]Regarding Electronic Signature: If this communication concerns the negotiation of a contract or agreement, electronic signature rules do not apply to this communication: [2] contract formation in this matter shall occur only with manually-affixed original signatures on original documents. [3] No negotiations respecting any item ( including repairs), such as talking about that/any item (s)or securing estimates for same shall not in any way obligate The Unalienable Rights Foundation [UARF] to that item or repair(s) discussed, nor shall UARF or its Client be held liable for any damage(s)for failure not to include/honor the same unless obligated to do so by the terms set forth in a contract negotiated by the parties with the aforesaid manually affixed signatures. The foregoing comments are copyright © MMXII UARF and may not be copied, redistributed, extracted from, or recirculated outside of this mailing without written consent by UARF.

**INTERNAL MEMORANDUM / FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

Tucker's "Editor's Preface" "On the Study of Law" in his edition of Blackstone's Commentaries.

88 many who have obtained licences to practice, discover upon their entrance into  
89 the profession a total want of information respecting the laws of their own  
90 country. A misfortune which their utmost diligence thereafter is required to  
91 remedy. A misfortune unavoidably attendant on that obscurity into which the  
92 laws of this state have been thrown, by partial editions, and by the loose and  
93 slovenly manner in which the acts of the legislature are stitched together, and  
94 dispersed throughout the country in unbound, and even uncovered sheets, more  
95 like ephemerals than the perpetual rules of property, and of civil conduct in a  
96 state.

97 These inconveniences had been sensibly felt by the Editor, whose utmost  
98 diligence had been in vain applied to their removal, when he was unexpectedly  
99 called to fill the chair of the professor of law in the university of William And  
100 Mary, In Virginia, then vacant by the resignation of a gentleman,<sup>1</sup> to whose  
101 advice and friendly instruction he was indebted for whatever talent he might be  
102 supposed to possess for filling the office of his successor. Great as he felt the  
103 distance between himself and his predecessor, the partiality of his friends  
104 persuaded him to accept an office which he was by no means prepared to  
105 discharge to his own satisfaction. To prepare a regular course of original lectures  
106 would have required some years of study, and of labour, not only in collecting,

\*Disclaimers: [1]Regarding Electronic Signature: If this communication concerns the negotiation of a contract or agreement, electronic signature rules do not apply to this communication: [2] contract formation in this matter shall occur only with manually-affixed original signatures on original documents. [3] No negotiations respecting any item ( including repairs), such as talking about that/any item (s)or securing estimates for same shall not in any way obligate The Unalienable Rights Foundation [UARF] to that item or repair(s) discussed, nor shall UARF or its Client be held liable for any damage(s)for failure not to include/honor the same unless obligated to do so by the terms set forth in a contract negotiated by the parties with the aforesaid manually affixed signatures. The foregoing comments are copyright © MMXII UARF and may not be copied, redistributed, extracted from, or recirculated outside of this mailing without written consent by UARF.

**INTERNAL MEMORANDUM / FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

Tucker's "Editor's Preface" "On the Study of Law" in his edition of Blackstone's Commentaries.

107 but in methodizing and arranging his materials. The exigencies of the office did  
108 not permit this: he was obliged, in the short period of two or three months, to  
109 enter upon the duties of it: he determined to be useful to his pupils as far as his  
110 best endeavours would enable him to be so, without regarding the form in which  
111 his instructions might be conveyed. The method, therefore, which he proposed  
112 to himself to adopt, was to recur to Blackstone's Commentaries as a text, and  
113 occasionally to offer remarks upon such passages as he might conceive required  
114 illustration, either because the law had been confirmed, or changed, or repealed,  
115 by some constitutional or legislative act of the Federal Government, or of the  
116 commonwealth of Virginia. This method he was led to adopt, partly, from the  
117 utter impracticability of preparing a regular course of lectures, for the reasons  
118 before mentioned; and, partly, from the exalted opinion he entertained of the  
119 Commentaries as a model of methodical elegance and legal perspicuity: a work  
120 in which the author has united the various talents of the philosopher, the  
121 antiquarian, the historian, the jurist, the logician and the classic: and which has  
122 undergone so many editions in England, Ireland, and America, as to have found  
123 its way into the libraries of almost every gentleman whether of the profession,  
124 or otherwise; and from general acceptance, had become the guide of all those  
125 who proposed to make the law their study. By these means he proposed to avail  
126 himself not only of the Commentator's incomparable method, but of his

\*Disclaimers: [1]Regarding Electronic Signature: If this communication concerns the negotiation of a contract or agreement, electronic signature rules do not apply to this communication: [2] contract formation in this matter shall occur only with manually-affixed original signatures on original documents. [3] No negotiations respecting any item ( including repairs), such as talking about that/any item (s)or securing estimates for same shall not in any way obligate The Unalienable Rights Foundation [UARF] to that item or repair(s) discussed, nor shall UARF or its Client be held liable for any damage(s)for failure not to include/honor the same unless obligated to do so by the terms set forth in a contract negotiated by the parties with the aforesaid manually affixed signatures. The foregoing comments are copyright © MMXII UARF and may not be copied, redistributed, extracted from, or recirculated outside of this mailing without written consent by UARF.

**INTERNAL MEMORANDUM / FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

Tucker's "Editor's Preface" "On the Study of Law" in his edition of Blackstone's Commentaries.

127 information as an historian and antiquarian, his classical purity and precision as  
128 a scholar, and his authority as a lawyer; without danger either of loss, or  
129 depreciation, by translating them into a different work; he was also encouraged  
130 to hope that by these means he might render that incomparable work a safe, as  
131 well as a delightful guide to those who may hereafter become students of law  
132 in this commonwealth.

133 It was foreseen, that the execution of this plan would not consist merely of short  
134 explanatory notes, and references to our state code: but that the prosecution  
135 of it would not unfrequently lead to inquiries, and discussions of subjects which  
136 neither form a part of, nor even bear any relation to, the laws of England. The  
137 Constitution of the United States of America, and the particular Constitution of  
138 the state of Virginia, it was supposed would afford a field of inquiry which yet  
139 remained to be fully explored; it was considered that it would be necessary to  
140 investigate the nature of that compact which the people of the United States  
141 have entered into, one with another; to examine the powers entrusted to those  
142 who exercise the government, and to satisfy ourselves of their just extent and  
143 limits; to consider the connection between the federal government, and the  
144 state governments; to trace with accuracy, as far as the novelty and intricacy  
145 of the subject would permit, their respective rights, dependencies, and

\*Disclaimers: [1]Regarding Electronic Signature: If this communication concerns the negotiation of a contract or agreement, electronic signature rules do not apply to this communication: [2] contract formation in this matter shall occur only with manually-affixed original signatures on original documents. [3] No negotiations respecting any item ( including repairs), such as talking about that/any item (s)or securing estimates for same shall not in any way obligate The Unalienable Rights Foundation [UARF] to that item or repair(s) discussed, nor shall UARF or its Client be held liable for any damage(s)for failure not to include/honor the same unless obligated to do so by the terms set forth in a contract negotiated by the parties with the aforesaid manually affixed signatures. The foregoing comments are copyright © MMXII UARF and may not be copied, redistributed, extracted from, or recirculated outside of this mailing without written consent by UARF.

**INTERNAL MEMORANDUM / FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

Tucker's "Editor's Preface" "On the Study of Law" in his edition of Blackstone's Commentaries.

146 boundaries; to survey, with attention, the whole complicated structure of our  
147 government, and consider how far the parts of a machine so immense, intricate  
148 and complex, are likely to correspond, or interfere with the operations of each  
149 other. Such a discussion would necessarily lead to an examination of the  
150 principles of our government, in the course of which a dissent from the received  
151 maxims of that which we had shaken off would be unavoidable; and in such an  
152 investigation it was conceived that it would be more proper to rely on the  
153 authority of the American Congress, or of the several State Conventions, than  
154 the opinions of any speculative writers on government whatever: inasmuch as  
155 the declarations and acts of those Bodies were the foundation of the late  
156 revolution, and form the basis of the several republics that have been  
157 established among us; and have thus become constitutional declarations on the  
158 part of the people, of their natural, inherent, and unalienable rights. From this  
159 circumstance, those acts and declarations might be considered, in our own  
160 republic at least, as settling the controversy between speculative writers, in all  
161 cases to which they extend. Mr. Locke, for example, contends that all power is  
162 vested in the people: this opinion is controverted by some, and doubted by other  
163 eminent writers on government, among whom it is sufficient to mention the  
164 learned Grotius, and the author of these Commentaries. Were it required to  
165 investigate this question hypothetically, it might be necessary to recur to the

\*Disclaimers: [1]Regarding Electronic Signature: If this communication concerns the negotiation of a contract or agreement, electronic signature rules do not apply to this communication: [2] contract formation in this matter shall occur only with manually-affixed original signatures on original documents. [3] No negotiations respecting any item ( including repairs), such as talking about that/any item (s)or securing estimates for same shall not in any way obligate The Unalienable Rights Foundation [UARF] to that item or repair(s) discussed, nor shall UARF or its Client be held liable for any damage(s)for failure not to include/honor the same unless obligated to do so by the terms set forth in a contract negotiated by the parties with the aforesaid manually affixed signatures. The foregoing comments are copyright © MMXII UARF and may not be copied, redistributed, extracted from, or recirculated outside of this mailing without written consent by UARF.

**INTERNAL MEMORANDUM / FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

Tucker's "Editor's Preface" "On the Study of Law" in his edition of Blackstone's Commentaries.

166 arguments on both sides, and decide according as they may be found to  
167 preponderate, since no preference could be given to the bare authority of either  
168 of these great names. But when we find this principle asserted by congress in  
169 the Declaration of Independence; and by the Convention of Virginia in our Bill  
170 of Rights; insisted on, again, by the Convention of the State upon the ratification  
171 of the Constitution of the United States; and finally acknowledged by the  
172 Amendments proposed to the Constitution by Congress, and since ratified by the  
173 several states, the contest, as it applies to the principles of our government, is  
174 at an end; and we are authorised to insist on the affirmative, with whatever  
175 ingenuity the opposite argument may be maintained.

176 The Constitution of Virginia formed under circumstances which have occasioned  
177 its authority to be doubted, even by one of the most enlightened politicians that  
178 this country has produced, it was also supposed, would require a full and candid  
179 discussion. Framed at a time when America might be supposed to be in the  
180 cradle of political science, it will not be surprising if many defects have been  
181 discovered in it: to examine them impartially, and to propose a remedy for  
182 them, or at least for the most obvious and dangerous, it was presumed, could  
183 not be an unprofitable undertaking, and would naturally fall in with the plan  
184 which the editor proposed to adopt.

\*Disclaimers: [1]Regarding Electronic Signature: If this communication concerns the negotiation of a contract or agreement, electronic signature rules do not apply to this communication: [2] contract formation in this matter shall occur only with manually-affixed original signatures on original documents. [3] No negotiations respecting any item ( including repairs), such as talking about that/any item (s)or securing estimates for same shall not in any way obligate The Unalienable Rights Foundation [UARF] to that item or repair(s) discussed, nor shall UARF or its Client be held liable for any damage(s)for failure not to include/honor the same unless obligated to do so by the terms set forth in a contract negotiated by the parties with the aforesaid manually affixed signatures. The foregoing comments are copyright © MMXII UARF and may not be copied, redistributed, extracted from, or recirculated outside of this mailing without written consent by UARF.

**INTERNAL MEMORANDUM / FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

Tucker's "Editor's Preface" "On the Study of Law" in his edition of Blackstone's Commentaries.

185 The authority and obligation of the Common Law of England in the United  
186 States, was another subject, which it was deemed both necessary and proper  
187 to inquire into. If the arguments upon which the learned commentator founded  
188 his opinion, that "the common law of England, as such, had no allowance or  
189 authority in the British American colonies," antecedent to the revolution which  
190 separated them from each other, seem questionable, on the one hand, the  
191 opinion that it is now the general law of the land in the United States, in their  
192 collective and national capacity and character, appears not less questionable on  
193 the other. The Editor has therefore bestowed some considerable attention on the  
194 subject; and though he cannot flatter himself that his researches and  
195 conclusions will prove satisfactory, or convincing, to all parties, he cannot but  
196 persuade himself that those who impartially seek after truth, will incline to the  
197 same opinion with himself.

198 And, again; although the common law is by express legislative adoption the law  
199 of the land in Virginia, under certain restrictions, yet it has from time to time  
200 undergone such a variety of amendments, both statutory, and constitutional,  
201 that no student without some guide to assist him, can possibly know what to  
202 receive, or what to reject; it was, therefore, thought indispensibly necessary to  
203 advertise him in what cases its authority and obligation have been either in part

\*Disclaimers: [1]Regarding Electronic Signature: If this communication concerns the negotiation of a contract or agreement, electronic signature rules do not apply to this communication: [2] contract formation in this matter shall occur only with manually-affixed original signatures on original documents. [3] No negotiations respecting any item ( including repairs), such as talking about that/any item (s)or securing estimates for same shall not in any way obligate The Unalienable Rights Foundation [UARF] to that item or repair(s) discussed, nor shall UARF or its Client be held liable for any damage(s)for failure not to include/honor the same unless obligated to do so by the terms set forth in a contract negotiated by the parties with the aforesaid manually affixed signatures. The foregoing comments are copyright © MMXII UARF and may not be copied, redistributed, extracted from, or recirculated outside of this mailing without written consent by UARF.

**INTERNAL MEMORANDUM / FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

Tucker's "Editor's Preface" "On the Study of Law" in his edition of Blackstone's Commentaries.

204 diminished or totally destroyed by such amendments. And lastly, as the common  
205 law is a collection of general customs, it might not be amiss to inquire whether  
206 particular customs have any, or what force, among us.

207 The frequent recurrence to the statute law of England, in the Commentaries,  
208 might lead an unwary student to presume that all its provisions were in force in  
209 this country; or if he had heard that a part of the statutes only, were received  
210 and acknowledged as binding upon us in this commonwealth, he would be left  
211 in a state of the most absolute uncertainty respecting them; neither knowing  
212 which to receive, nor which to reject, as in the case of the provisions of the  
213 common law just mentioned. If he had been informed of the positive repeal of  
214 all British statutes by a late act of the legislature of Virginia, he might be  
215 tempted to suppose that it would be merely loss of time to peruse the abstract  
216 of them in the Commentaries, although a short marginal note, might instruct  
217 him, perhaps, that they still are retained in our code, and form an important part  
218 of our jurisprudence. True it is, those provisions have no longer authority as acts  
219 of the British parliament: but a great number of them have been expressly  
220 adopted by our legislature; others have undergone some alteration the better  
221 to adapt them to our use; in some the very words of a statute have been  
222 retained, whilst in others the phraseology has, perhaps more from inadvertence

\*Disclaimers: [1]Regarding Electronic Signature: If this communication concerns the negotiation of a contract or agreement, electronic signature rules do not apply to this communication: [2] contract formation in this matter shall occur only with manually-affixed original signatures on original documents. [3] No negotiations respecting any item ( including repairs), such as talking about that/any item (s)or securing estimates for same shall not in any way obligate The Unalienable Rights Foundation [UARF] to that item or repair(s) discussed, nor shall UARF or its Client be held liable for any damage(s)for failure not to include/honor the same unless obligated to do so by the terms set forth in a contract negotiated by the parties with the aforesaid manually affixed signatures. The foregoing comments are copyright © MMXII UARF and may not be copied, redistributed, extracted from, or recirculated outside of this mailing without written consent by UARF.

**INTERNAL MEMORANDUM / FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

Tucker's "Editor's Preface" "On the Study of Law" in his edition of Blackstone's Commentaries.

223 than design, been changed; a considerable number have also been either tacitly,  
224 or expressly, rejected, or repealed. To a student pursuing a systematical course  
225 of study it must be highly important to be delivered from a labyrinth of  
226 uncertainty, by casting his eye to the bottom of the page, and there finding  
227 whether the statute he is considering still forms a part of, or has been expunged  
228 from, that code, which he wishes to understand.

229 Not only the regulations contained in the statutes, but many of the rules of the  
230 common law have been occasionally interwoven in, or where doubtful, explained  
231 by legislative acts; thereby ascertaining their meaning, and placing their validity  
232 beyond a doubt. To point out these cases, might save the student infinite labour,  
233 time, and error.

234 But, the almost total change in the system of laws relative to property, both real  
235 and personal, in Virginia, appeared more particularly to demand a strict scrutiny,  
236 and investigation; in the course of which it might not only be necessary to  
237 remark the more obvious, but the imperceptible, and perhaps unintended,  
238 changes, wrought by a loose, or incautious phrase, or reference. Instances of  
239 this kind have unfortunately more than once occurred in our code, and are the  
240 unavoidable result of frequently tampering with the rules of property.

\*Disclaimers: [1]Regarding Electronic Signature: If this communication concerns the negotiation of a contract or agreement, electronic signature rules do not apply to this communication: [2] contract formation in this matter shall occur only with manually-affixed original signatures on original documents. [3] No negotiations respecting any item ( including repairs), such as talking about that/any item (s)or securing estimates for same shall not in any way obligate The Unalienable Rights Foundation [UARF] to that item or repair(s) discussed, nor shall UARF or its Client be held liable for any damage(s)for failure not to include/honor the same unless obligated to do so by the terms set forth in a contract negotiated by the parties with the aforesaid manually affixed signatures. The foregoing comments are copyright © MMXII UARF and may not be copied, redistributed, extracted from, or recirculated outside of this mailing without written consent by UARF.

**INTERNAL MEMORANDUM / FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

Tucker's "Editor's Preface" "On the Study of Law" in his edition of Blackstone's Commentaries.

241 The regulations of our internal police, the organization of our courts of  
242 judicature, both in the federal and state government; their respective  
243 jurisdictions, and the mode of proceeding therein; are moreover subjects,  
244 concerning which the student can expect to receive very little information from  
245 the Commentaries, without the aid of notes to direct his attention to such as  
246 have been established here with similar powers. The courts of judicature in  
247 England have in general afforded the models of ours; but local circumstances  
248 have necessarily introduced a variety of new regulations, which by imperceptible  
249 and gradual changes, have lost all resemblance to the British original.

250 But independent of those alterations in the system of our jurisprudence to which  
251 local circumstances might be supposed to have given birth, there are a great  
252 number which appear to be merely the suggestions of political experiment, or  
253 a desire to conform to the newly adopted principles of republican government;  
254 among these we may reckon the abolition of entails; of the right of  
255 primogeniture; of the preference heretofore given to the male line, in respect  
256 to real estates of inheritance; and of the jus accrescendi, or right of survivorship  
257 between joint-tenants; the ascending quality communicated to real estates; the  
258 heretability of the half-blood; and of bastards; the legitimation of the latter, in  
259 certain cases; and many other instances in which the rules of the common law,

\*Disclaimers: [1]Regarding Electronic Signature: If this communication concerns the negotiation of a contract or agreement, electronic signature rules do not apply to this communication: [2] contract formation in this matter shall occur only with manually-affixed original signatures on original documents. [3] No negotiations respecting any item ( including repairs), such as talking about that/any item (s)or securing estimates for same shall not in any way obligate The Unalienable Rights Foundation [UARF] to that item or repair(s) discussed, nor shall UARF or its Client be held liable for any damage(s)for failure not to include/honor the same unless obligated to do so by the terms set forth in a contract negotiated by the parties with the aforesaid manually affixed signatures. The foregoing comments are copyright © MMXII UARF and may not be copied, redistributed, extracted from, or recirculated outside of this mailing without written consent by UARF.

**INTERNAL MEMORANDUM / FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

Tucker's "Editor's Preface" "On the Study of Law" in his edition of Blackstone's Commentaries.

260 or the provisions of a statute, are totally changed.

261 Many parts of the laws of England are also either obsolete, or have been deemed  
262 inapplicable to our local circumstances and policy; these it might be proper to  
263 recommend to the perusal of the student, rather as matter of curiosity, than of  
264 necessary information to him as an American Lawyer. To this class might be  
265 referred the learning respecting ancient feudal tenures; the whole doctrine of  
266 copy-holds, and tithes, and whatsoever relates to special or particular customs.  
267 The constitution of the crown and parliament, with their several rights,  
268 prerogatives, and privileges, would at first appear to fall into the same class: but  
269 it was conceived that it might not be uninstrutive to shew how far they have  
270 been rejected in our own constitutions; or where retained, in what manner they  
271 have been distributed thereby. In some cases it would be found that they have  
272 been confided solely to the President of the United States; that in others they  
273 are participated by the Senate, as an executive council; in other instances,  
274 Congress, taken collectively, are the depositaries of the sovereign will and  
275 authority of the people; and, if the Editor's partiality does not deceive him, it will  
276 be found, upon a candid investigation of the subject, that wherever the  
277 constitution of the United States departs from the principles of the British  
278 constitution; the change will, in an eminent degree, contribute to the liberty and

\*Disclaimers: [1]Regarding Electronic Signature: If this communication concerns the negotiation of a contract or agreement, electronic signature rules do not apply to this communication: [2] contract formation in this matter shall occur only with manually-affixed original signatures on original documents. [3] No negotiations respecting any item ( including repairs), such as talking about that/any item (s)or securing estimates for same shall not in any way obligate The Unalienable Rights Foundation [UARF] to that item or repair(s) discussed, nor shall UARF or its Client be held liable for any damage(s)for failure not to include/honor the same unless obligated to do so by the terms set forth in a contract negotiated by the parties with the aforesaid manually affixed signatures. The foregoing comments are copyright © MMXII UARF and may not be copied, redistributed, extracted from, or recirculated outside of this mailing without written consent by UARF.

**INTERNAL MEMORANDUM / FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

Tucker's "Editor's Preface" "On the Study of Law" in his edition of Blackstone's Commentaries.

279 happiness of the people, however it may diminish the splendour of the  
280 government, or the personal influence of those who administer it. For these  
281 reasons, it was conceived, that a more particular attention might be proper to  
282 those parts of the Commentaries, which treat on these subjects, than at first  
283 view might appear to be necessary.

284 The subject of domestic slavery, which, happily for the people of England, it was  
285 unnecessary to treat of in the Commentaries, is one, which a student of Law in  
286 Virginia ought not to pass over without attention. How far the condition of that  
287 unfortunate race of men, whom the unhappy policy of our forefathers has  
288 reduced to that degraded condition, is reconcileable to the principles of a free  
289 republic, it might be hard for the advocates of such a policy to shew. It was, at  
290 least, presumed that in this enlightened age, when philanthropy is supposed to  
291 have been more generally diffused through the civilized nations of the earth than  
292 at any former period; and in this country, where the blessings of liberty have  
293 been so lately, and so dearly purchased, it could not be deemed improper to  
294 inquire whether there was a due correspondence between our avowed principles,  
295 and our daily practice; and if not, whether it were practicable, consistently with  
296 our political safety, to wipe off that stigma from our nation and government.  
297 Though the rights of nature, and the dictates of humanity, might heretofore

\*Disclaimers: [1]Regarding Electronic Signature: If this communication concerns the negotiation of a contract or agreement, electronic signature rules do not apply to this communication: [2] contract formation in this matter shall occur only with manually-affixed original signatures on original documents. [3] No negotiations respecting any item ( including repairs), such as talking about that/any item (s)or securing estimates for same shall not in any way obligate The Unalienable Rights Foundation [UARF] to that item or repair(s) discussed, nor shall UARF or its Client be held liable for any damage(s)for failure not to include/honor the same unless obligated to do so by the terms set forth in a contract negotiated by the parties with the aforesaid manually affixed signatures. The foregoing comments are copyright © MMXII UARF and may not be copied, redistributed, extracted from, or recirculated outside of this mailing without written consent by UARF.

**INTERNAL MEMORANDUM / FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

Tucker's "Editor's Preface" "On the Study of Law" in his edition of Blackstone's Commentaries.

298 have yielded to the suggestions of interest, the prejudices of education, or the  
299 apprehensions of timid politicians; it was still hoped to be demonstrable that  
300 reason and justice are reconcileable to our political and domestic interests.

301 The late revision and republication of the laws of this commonwealth, might at  
302 first view appear to supersede the necessity of particular references thereto; the  
303 subjects being generally arranged under their proper heads, in bills of  
304 considerable length, it might be supposed, would enable the student to consult  
305 the statutes, and form his own notes of their operation. But the inconvenience  
306 formerly hinted at, arising from partial, instead of complete editions of our  
307 statute law, has full operation in consequence of the omission of a multitude of  
308 acts, whose various and often contradictory provisions (so far as they could be  
309 reconciled) were consolidated into single bills; in the formation of which the date  
310 of the original law, and not only the date, but the alterations produced by  
311 amendatory acts, have unavoidably been lost sight of. Hence, the late code can  
312 only be considered as operating upon cases subsequent to the revisal; for a  
313 knowledge of the law antecedent thereto, the student must hunt through five  
314 other partial compilations, or through the scattered pages of the unbound  
315 Sessions's acts, scarcely less difficult to be collected than the leaves of the  
316 Sybils. To assist his labours, and often to supply the want of a law which no

\*Disclaimers: [1]Regarding Electronic Signature: If this communication concerns the negotiation of a contract or agreement, electronic signature rules do not apply to this communication: [2] contract formation in this matter shall occur only with manually-affixed original signatures on original documents. [3] No negotiations respecting any item ( including repairs), such as talking about that/any item (s)or securing estimates for same shall not in any way obligate The Unalienable Rights Foundation [UARF] to that item or repair(s) discussed, nor shall UARF or its Client be held liable for any damage(s)for failure not to include/honor the same unless obligated to do so by the terms set forth in a contract negotiated by the parties with the aforesaid manually affixed signatures. The foregoing comments are copyright © MMXII UARF and may not be copied, redistributed, extracted from, or recirculated outside of this mailing without written consent by UARF.

**INTERNAL MEMORANDUM / FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

Tucker's "Editor's Preface" "On the Study of Law" in his edition of Blackstone's Commentaries.

317 diligence might enable him to procure, was deemed an object of no small  
318 importance. And here we may be permitted to remark, that the settlement of  
319 this country is too recent not to render that policy very questionable, which  
320 consigns to oblivion not only temporary and occasional acts, but the laws which  
321 regulate personal property, (which have, perhaps without intention, been  
322 repeatedly altered and omitted) and even those, by which the titles to lands  
323 have been originally acquired, and are still held; not to mention those, by which  
324 counties have been divided, courts established, records removed, and a  
325 multitude of other arrangements made, altered, and repealed; so as to render  
326 a complete acquaintance with the laws of this country, one of the most difficult  
327 of human acquirements. A general view of such of the omitted laws as relate to  
328 the original acquisition, and subsequent disposal of lands, and other estates of  
329 persons dying intestate would well deserve the attention of the student; and  
330 although most of them are now out of print, a bare enumeration of their titles,  
331 with the periods of their enactment, suspension, or repeal, might be of singular  
332 use to those whose interests are likely to be affected by their temporary  
333 existence. In researches of this nature a stock of knowledge is acquired whose  
334 value is the more precious as it becomes more scarce. To form a complete  
335 digest of statute law appears to have been a favourite object with the legislature  
336 of Virginia from its first settlement ... but unfortunately every attempt of the kind

\*Disclaimers: [1]Regarding Electronic Signature: If this communication concerns the negotiation of a contract or agreement, electronic signature rules do not apply to this communication: [2] contract formation in this matter shall occur only with manually-affixed original signatures on original documents. [3] No negotiations respecting any item ( including repairs), such as talking about that/any item (s)or securing estimates for same shall not in any way obligate The Unalienable Rights Foundation [UARF] to that item or repair(s) discussed, nor shall UARF or its Client be held liable for any damage(s)for failure not to include/honor the same unless obligated to do so by the terms set forth in a contract negotiated by the parties with the aforesaid manually affixed signatures. The foregoing comments are copyright © MMXII UARF and may not be copied, redistributed, extracted from, or recirculated outside of this mailing without written consent by UARF.

**INTERNAL MEMORANDUM / FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

Tucker's "Editor's Preface" "On the Study of Law" in his edition of Blackstone's Commentaries.

337 seems to have been the parent of new perplexities, by the introduction of new  
338 laws; and the re-enaction, omission, or suspension of former acts, whose  
339 operation is thus rendered doubtful, even in the most important cases. It has  
340 been supposed, for instance, that whenever the legislature have had a bill before  
341 them, the rejection of any particular clause therein contained is to be considered  
342 as a declaration of the legislative will, that the part rejected shall not be law; or  
343 if it be law already, that it shall thenceforth cease to be the law of the land: but  
344 will it be supposed that it was the intention of the legislature in 1792, when they  
345 struck the act of 1788, c. 23. out of the slave law, to repeal that act, by which  
346 the act of 1748, declaring that a person guilty of the manslaughter of a slave  
347 should incur no punishment for it, had been but a few years before repealed;  
348 under circumstances which excited a just horror that such an act should so long  
349 have disgraced our code. On the other hand, would it not probably be equally  
350 wide of the truth to presume it was the intention of the legislature to continue  
351 in force those parts of the act of 1748, which were also stricken out of the same  
352 bill, in the year 1792, and by which the outlawing and shooting of run-away  
353 slaves had been formerly authorised? Though no general rule can therefore be  
354 laid down upon this subject, it appeared practicable to assist the student in  
355 forming a tolerably just conclusion in particular cases. To aid his researches in  
356 the several instances before pointed out, was another object of the Editor's

\*Disclaimers: [1]Regarding Electronic Signature: If this communication concerns the negotiation of a contract or agreement, electronic signature rules do not apply to this communication: [2] contract formation in this matter shall occur only with manually-affixed original signatures on original documents. [3] No negotiations respecting any item ( including repairs), such as talking about that/any item (s)or securing estimates for same shall not in any way obligate The Unalienable Rights Foundation [UARF] to that item or repair(s) discussed, nor shall UARF or its Client be held liable for any damage(s)for failure not to include/honor the same unless obligated to do so by the terms set forth in a contract negotiated by the parties with the aforesaid manually affixed signatures. The foregoing comments are copyright © MMXII UARF and may not be copied, redistributed, extracted from, or recirculated outside of this mailing without written consent by UARF.

**INTERNAL MEMORANDUM / FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

Tucker's "Editor's Preface" "On the Study of Law" in his edition of Blackstone's Commentaries.

357 undertaking.

358 Such being the outlines of his plan, he entered upon the execution of it with a  
359 zeal, which, if it had been seconded with equal ability, would doubtless have  
360 produced a valuable system of federal and state jurisprudence, so far at least  
361 as relates to the Commonwealth Of Virginia. ... to have engrafted the laws of all  
362 the states in the union, was a work too extensive in the plan, and would have  
363 been too voluminous in its execution for him to undertake, whatever might have  
364 been his aids, or his talents for such an undertaking: he therefore contented  
365 himself with the hope of being particularly useful to the students of law in his  
366 own state, and generally so, to those in other states, who were solicitous to  
367 become acquainted with the principles of the constitution of the federal  
368 government, and the general laws of the union.

369 Before he concludes, it may not be improper to add a few remarks on the study  
370 of the law in this country. If it be true that those nations which have been most  
371 distinguished for science, have been also most distinguished for the freedom  
372 they have enjoyed, the conclusion would immediately follow that liberty and  
373 science were inseparable companions. But here an objection immediately  
374 presents itself, that illiterate and barbarous nations are found to possess a

\*Disclaimers: [1]Regarding Electronic Signature: If this communication concerns the negotiation of a contract or agreement, electronic signature rules do not apply to this communication: [2] contract formation in this matter shall occur only with manually-affixed original signatures on original documents. [3] No negotiations respecting any item ( including repairs), such as talking about that/any item (s)or securing estimates for same shall not in any way obligate The Unalienable Rights Foundation [UARF] to that item or repair(s) discussed, nor shall UARF or its Client be held liable for any damage(s)for failure not to include/honor the same unless obligated to do so by the terms set forth in a contract negotiated by the parties with the aforesaid manually affixed signatures. The foregoing comments are copyright © MMXII UARF and may not be copied, redistributed, extracted from, or recirculated outside of this mailing without written consent by UARF.

**INTERNAL MEMORANDUM / FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

Tucker's "Editor's Preface" "On the Study of Law" in his edition of Blackstone's Commentaries.

375 greater portion of freedom, in their constitutions and government, than is to be  
376 met with in any civilized nation whatsoever. The ancient Gauls and their  
377 neighbours the Germans, not to mention other barbarous nations, appear to  
378 have lived under a kind of government as free as that of the Indians of this  
379 continent, and were equally strangers to literature and to science. But with these  
380 and all other barbarous nations, government hath always been a most simple  
381 machine, adapted to very few purposes, and those such as might obviously be  
382 effected by the aid of a simple contrivance. Their dress, their houses, their mode  
383 of living, and their mode of warfare, all partook of the same simplicity. An  
384 itinerant nation, or one living in common, would have few ideas respecting the  
385 rights of property; their martial temper rendered every individual the arbiter,  
386 asserter, and avenger of his own personal rights. Hence very few cases occurred  
387 where there could be room for the authority of the civil magistrate to interfere:  
388 such magistrates, therefore, appear to have been unknown among them: even  
389 their military chiefs seem to have possessed no personal authority but in war;  
390 and it is not improbable that their military institutions partook in an eminent  
391 degree of the simplicity of the civil. The principles, upon which the government,  
392 whether civil or military, was to be administered, being few and simple, were  
393 easily understood. Government in this state may be compared to a seedling oak,  
394 that has just burst the acorn and appears above the surface of the earth with its

\*Disclaimers: [1]Regarding Electronic Signature: If this communication concerns the negotiation of a contract or agreement, electronic signature rules do not apply to this communication: [2] contract formation in this matter shall occur only with manually-affixed original signatures on original documents. [3] No negotiations respecting any item ( including repairs), such as talking about that/any item (s)or securing estimates for same shall not in any way obligate The Unalienable Rights Foundation [UARF] to that item or repair(s) discussed, nor shall UARF or its Client be held liable for any damage(s)for failure not to include/honor the same unless obligated to do so by the terms set forth in a contract negotiated by the parties with the aforesaid manually affixed signatures. The foregoing comments are copyright © MMXII UARF and may not be copied, redistributed, extracted from, or recirculated outside of this mailing without written consent by UARF.

**INTERNAL MEMORANDUM / FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

Tucker's "Editor's Preface" "On the Study of Law" in his edition of Blackstone's Commentaries.

395 first leaves; it advances with civilization, rears its head in proportion as the other  
396 increases; and puts forth innumerable branches till it covers the earth with an  
397 extensive shade, and is finally regarded as the king of the forest: all behold it  
398 with reverence, few have any conception of its magnitude, or of the dimensions,  
399 or number of its parts; few are acquainted with the extent of its produce, or can  
400 compare the benefits derived from its shade, with the loss of soil which it  
401 appropriates to its own support. In such a state, in vain would the rude hand of  
402 the barbarian attempt to trace its figure; science, only, is equal to the task, and,  
403 even she will find it painful, laborious, and incessant; since every year is the  
404 parent of new branches, or the destroyer of old ones: nor will a superficial  
405 observation of its exterior alone, suffice; the roots may be decayed, the trunk  
406 hollow, and the monarch of the forest ready to fall with its own rottenness and  
407 weight, at the moment that its enormous bulk, extensive branches, and  
408 luxuriant foliage would seem to promise a millennial duration.

409 Moreover, society and civilization create a thousand relations unknown to savage  
410 life: these are extended and diversified in such a manner that the machine of  
411 government becomes necessarily more complex in its parts, in proportion as its  
412 functions are multiplied. Those who administer it acquire a mechanical  
413 acquaintance with its powers, and often, by a slight alteration in the frame,

\*Disclaimers: [1]Regarding Electronic Signature: If this communication concerns the negotiation of a contract or agreement, electronic signature rules do not apply to this communication: [2] contract formation in this matter shall occur only with manually-affixed original signatures on original documents. [3] No negotiations respecting any item ( including repairs), such as talking about that/any item (s)or securing estimates for same shall not in any way obligate The Unalienable Rights Foundation [UARF] to that item or repair(s) discussed, nor shall UARF or its Client be held liable for any damage(s)for failure not to include/honor the same unless obligated to do so by the terms set forth in a contract negotiated by the parties with the aforesaid manually affixed signatures. The foregoing comments are copyright © MMXII UARF and may not be copied, redistributed, extracted from, or recirculated outside of this mailing without written consent by UARF.

**INTERNAL MEMORANDUM / FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

Tucker's "Editor's Preface" "On the Study of Law" in his edition of Blackstone's Commentaries.

414 produce an entire revolution in the principles of its action; to detect the cheat  
415 requires a thorough acquaintance with the principles of its original construction,  
416 and the purposes to which it was intended to be applied. Hence the facility with  
417 which governments, free in their institution, have been overturned by the  
418 usurpations, or contrivances, of those, to whom the administration of them hath  
419 been committed. Science counteracts this mechanical monopoly of knowledge,  
420 and unfolds to its votaries those principles which ought to direct the operations  
421 of the machine; discloses the application of other powers, and demonstrates the  
422 source from which they spring, and the effect they are calculated to produce.  
423 Hence, since the introduction of letters, those nations which have been most  
424 eminent in science, have been most distinguished by freedom. Man only requires  
425 to understand his rights to estimate them properly: the ignorance of the people  
426 is the footstool of despotism.

427 The study of the law may seem in all countries, in some degree, to be connected  
428 with the study of the constitution of the nation. Yet in arbitrary governments  
429 questions concerning the constitution rarely occur, and are still more rarely  
430 discussed; hence in such governments the study of the law, merely as a  
431 profession, does not seem necessarily to require the study of the constitution;  
432 the former being limited to such controversies between individuals, as do not

\*Disclaimers: [1]Regarding Electronic Signature: If this communication concerns the negotiation of a contract or agreement, electronic signature rules do not apply to this communication: [2] contract formation in this matter shall occur only with manually-affixed original signatures on original documents. [3] No negotiations respecting any item ( including repairs), such as talking about that/any item (s)or securing estimates for same shall not in any way obligate The Unalienable Rights Foundation [UARF] to that item or repair(s) discussed, nor shall UARF or its Client be held liable for any damage(s)for failure not to include/honor the same unless obligated to do so by the terms set forth in a contract negotiated by the parties with the aforesaid manually affixed signatures. The foregoing comments are copyright © MMXII UARF and may not be copied, redistributed, extracted from, or recirculated outside of this mailing without written consent by UARF.

**INTERNAL MEMORANDUM / FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

Tucker's "Editor's Preface" "On the Study of Law" in his edition of Blackstone's Commentaries.

433 involve in them any question of the authority of the government itself: and the  
434 latter being supposed to be a theme too exalted for the comprehension of a  
435 private individual, and as such discouraged and neglected, until time or accident  
436 hath directed the attention of men of talents to a subject so important to the  
437 happiness of mankind. But in America the force and obligation of every positive  
438 law, and of every act of government, are so immediately blended with the  
439 authority of the government itself, as confided by the people to those who  
440 administer it, that no man can pretend to a knowledge of the laws of his  
441 country, who doth not extend that knowledge to the constitution itself. Yet the  
442 study of the constitution is not more necessary to the right understanding of the  
443 force and obligation of any positive law, than the study of the law, as a science,  
444 is to a full and perfect understanding of the constitution: for the rules of law  
445 must not unfrequently be consulted, to explain the principles contained in the  
446 constitution: thus, they mutually contribute to the due investigation and  
447 understanding of each other.

448 In a government founded on the basis of equal liberty among all its citizens, to  
449 be ignorant of the law and the constitution, is to be ignorant of the rights of the  
450 citizen. Ignorance is invariably the parent of error: where it is blended with a  
451 turbulent and unquiet temper, it infallibly produces licentiousness, the most

\*Disclaimers: [1]Regarding Electronic Signature: If this communication concerns the negotiation of a contract or agreement, electronic signature rules do not apply to this communication: [2] contract formation in this matter shall occur only with manually-affixed original signatures on original documents. [3] No negotiations respecting any item ( including repairs), such as talking about that/any item (s)or securing estimates for same shall not in any way obligate The Unalienable Rights Foundation [UARF] to that item or repair(s) discussed, nor shall UARF or its Client be held liable for any damage(s)for failure not to include/honor the same unless obligated to do so by the terms set forth in a contract negotiated by the parties with the aforesaid manually affixed signatures. The foregoing comments are copyright © MMXII UARF and may not be copied, redistributed, extracted from, or recirculated outside of this mailing without written consent by UARF.

**INTERNAL MEMORANDUM / FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

Tucker's "Editor's Preface" "On the Study of Law" in his edition of Blackstone's Commentaries.

452 terrible enemy to liberty, except despotism: and even more terrible than  
453 despotism itself, were it not invariably short lived, whilst the other endures for  
454 ages; on the contrary, when ignorance is united with supineness, liberty  
455 becomes lethargic, and despotism erects her standard without opposition. An  
456 enlightened people, who have once attained the blessings of a free government,  
457 can never be enslaved until they abandon virtue and relinquish science. These  
458 are the nurses of infant liberty and its fostering genii when matured. To seek  
459 their favour is to secure it; to neglect, is infallibly to lose it.

460 If an acquaintance with the constitution and laws of our country be requisite to  
461 preserve the blessings of freedom to the people, it necessarily follows that those  
462 who are to frame laws or administer the government should possess a thorough  
463 knowledge of these subjects. For what can be more absurd than that a person  
464 wholly ignorant of the constitution should presume to make laws pursuant  
465 thereto? or that one who neither understands the constitution nor the law,  
466 should boldly adventure to administer the government! Yet such instances occur  
467 not unfrequently in all countries, and the danger that they will frequently occur  
468 in this, is perhaps greater than in any other. The road to office, in most other  
469 countries is filled with a thousand turnpikes, which are rarely opened but to the  
470 rich and powerful. These possess at least the means of education and

\*Disclaimers: [1]Regarding Electronic Signature: If this communication concerns the negotiation of a contract or agreement, electronic signature rules do not apply to this communication: [2] contract formation in this matter shall occur only with manually-affixed original signatures on original documents. [3] No negotiations respecting any item ( including repairs), such as talking about that/any item (s)or securing estimates for same shall not in any way obligate The Unalienable Rights Foundation [UARF] to that item or repair(s) discussed, nor shall UARF or its Client be held liable for any damage(s)for failure not to include/honor the same unless obligated to do so by the terms set forth in a contract negotiated by the parties with the aforesaid manually affixed signatures. The foregoing comments are copyright © MMXII UARF and may not be copied, redistributed, extracted from, or recirculated outside of this mailing without written consent by UARF.

**INTERNAL MEMORANDUM / FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

Tucker's "Editor's Preface" "On the Study of Law" in his edition of Blackstone's Commentaries.

471 information. With us it is equally open to all; but men of talents and virtue are  
472 not always the foremost in the course; persons of this description are generally  
473 more backward, than those of inferior pretensions, to the confidence of the  
474 people; a confidence which, if they do not, they are infinitely more liable to  
475 abuse, than if their minds had been properly enlightened by study and  
476 application.

477 Not only the study of the constitution, but an acquaintance with the civil history  
478 of our country, seems necessary to constitute a thorough knowledge of its laws.  
479 The several epochs required to be well known, when the laws of England were  
480 the sole rule of jurisprudence among us; or were interwoven with the laws of our  
481 own institution; which last were nevertheless considered in a subordinate degree  
482 of authority; or when the authority of the former was wholly superseded, and  
483 the latter substituted entirely in their stead, without any check or controul; and,  
484 lastly, when by an entire change of the government a new order of things was  
485 introduced, and the authority of a part of the laws of the commonwealth were  
486 submitted to the controul of the federal constitution, and jurisprudence;  
487 otherwise the student can never be certain of the validity of a law, but must  
488 wander perpetually in the mazes of doubt and error. To assist his researches in  
489 all these respects has been particularly the object of the Editor's labours; in

\*Disclaimers: [1]Regarding Electronic Signature: If this communication concerns the negotiation of a contract or agreement, electronic signature rules do not apply to this communication: [2] contract formation in this matter shall occur only with manually-affixed original signatures on original documents. [3] No negotiations respecting any item ( including repairs), such as talking about that/any item (s)or securing estimates for same shall not in any way obligate The Unalienable Rights Foundation [UARF] to that item or repair(s) discussed, nor shall UARF or its Client be held liable for any damage(s)for failure not to include/honor the same unless obligated to do so by the terms set forth in a contract negotiated by the parties with the aforesaid manually affixed signatures. The foregoing comments are copyright © MMXII UARF and may not be copied, redistributed, extracted from, or recirculated outside of this mailing without written consent by UARF.

**INTERNAL MEMORANDUM / FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

Tucker's "Editor's Preface" "On the Study of Law" in his edition of Blackstone's Commentaries.

490 submitting the result of them to the public, he is not without hope that the  
491 design will be approved, however the execution may fall short of his own wishes,  
492 or the public expectation.

493 St. Geo. Tucker.

494 July 10th, 1802.

495 [1.]Mr. [George] Wythe the present chancellor of Virginia.

\*Disclaimers: [1]Regarding Electronic Signature: If this communication concerns the negotiation of a contract or agreement, electronic signature rules do not apply to this communication: [2] contract formation in this matter shall occur only with manually-affixed original signatures on original documents. [3] No negotiations respecting any item ( including repairs), such as talking about that/any item (s)or securing estimates for same shall not in any way obligate The Unalienable Rights Foundation [UARF] to that item or repair(s) discussed, nor shall UARF or its Client be held liable for any damage(s)for failure not to include/honor the same unless obligated to do so by the terms set forth in a contract negotiated by the parties with the aforesaid manually affixed signatures. The foregoing comments are copyright © MMXII UARF and may not be copied, redistributed, extracted from, or recirculated outside of this mailing without written consent by UARF.