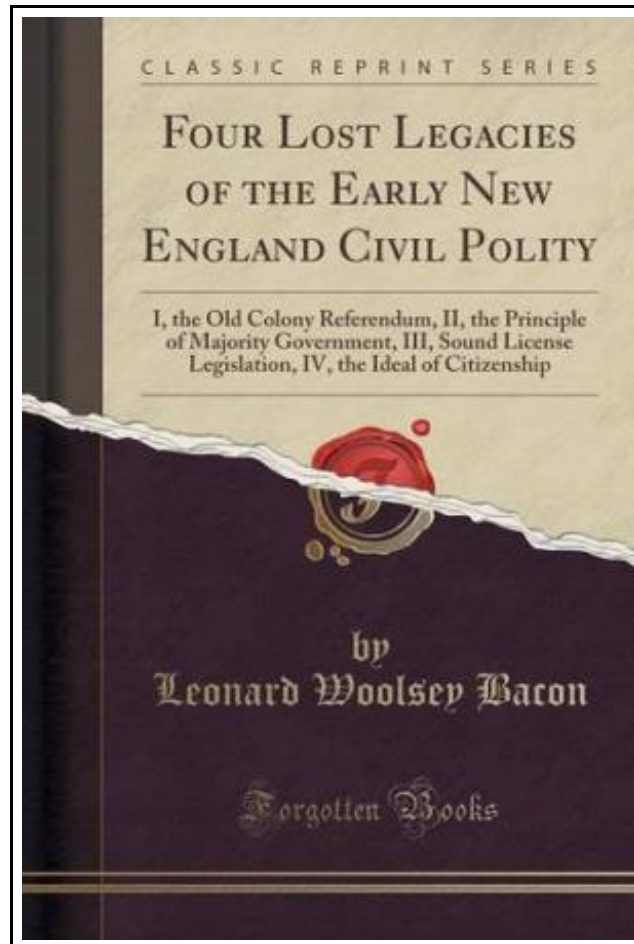


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Excerpt from *Four Lost Legacies of the Early New England Civil Polity: I, the Old Colony Referendum, II, the Principle of Majority Government, III, Sound License Legislation, IV, the Ideal of Citizenship* A far simpler and more effective provision, worthy, for the wisdom of it, to have survived to our day and to have been imitated in all the constitution-making States, was that requirement in the fundamental law of little Plymouth, that no bill should become a law (emergencies excepted) unless it had lain over from one legislature to the next. The lapse of this most salutary provision is not the least of the losses that civilization suffered in the merger of the little Old Colony with its overshadowing neighbor of the Bay. As compared with the cumbrous piece of mechanism of the Swiss publicists, by which some bills might, if citizens enough should take the trouble to combine, be subjected to a popular vote, it was a simple, automatic general referendum, by which all bills were brought under the purview of the body of citizens. No wiser safeguard has since been devised against the malfeasance of representative bodies. If it could be restored to our State constitutions in some such form as this that unless passed by a two-thirds vote (this exception would provide for all real cases of urgency) no bill should become a law unless read a second time in one legislature and adopted by the next legislature, think what we should gain by it. To begin with, it would tend to reduce the enormous annual output of new legislation which is recognized in all our states as one of the nuisances incident to...



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