

NOTICES OF NEW BOOKS.

The Public Statutes at Large of the State of Ohio, from the close of Chase's Statutes, February, 1833, to the present time: arranged in chronological order, with references to the Judicial Decisions construing those Statutes. And a Supplement, containing all laws passed prior to February, 1833, which are now in force. Edited by Maskell E. Curwen, of the Cincinnati Bar; one of the Professors of Law in the Cincinnati College. In three volumes. Vol. I. & II. 8vo. pp. 852. Cincinnati: Published by the Author. 1853.

We are told by the editor of this book, in the preface, "that he has borne constantly in mind that his performance must undergo the severe trial of daily use by an intelligent profession, who will not fail to test its accuracy and thoroughness, and to discover all its defects. No reference has been made without repeated examinations. The proof-sheets of each page have been twice compared with the text of the official edition, by accurate proof-readers, and attentively examined by the editor before it was printed; and the errors which actual use may disclose are not attributable either to haste or to carelessness, or to indifference to their importance."

Any volume made in the manner here indicated cannot fail to be a good one. The method adopted is indeed the only method that will satisfy the wants of the profession. In a lawyer's library accuracy is of paramount importance; correctness of text and citation saves an infinite deal of labor and no little vexation.

The work abounds in the most ample proofs of diligence, skill and judgment in the duties imposed upon the learned editor. The aim of the editor was to make a *complete revision* of all the existing laws of Ohio, as well as a collection of all laws since Chase's Statutes were published, down to the present time, and to point out whether any particular law was still in force, the modifications it had undergone, and the judicial judgments thereon. As well as one who is not familiar with the statutes of the particular State can judge, in this aim the editor has fully succeeded. Nor do we rely upon our own judgment in making this statement; we observe that nearly all the Ohio judges, and a very large number of the leading members of the Ohio bar, bear most cheerful witness to the value of the labors of Mr. Curwen.

One of the most thorough tests of the excellence of a work of this

description, is the index. In this respect, the volume before us, we think, will bear the closest scrutiny. The indices are full, and the arrangement as complete as could be made. The effort seems to have been to index the idea, so that one having any clear conception of what he wants, will not fail to find it readily; and by an excellent alphabetical arrangement, the place where any particular matter under a given title is to be found, is indicated at a glance, without running through the entire title. So in reference to the various statutes throughout the volume—an expressive word or two is placed in italics at the commencement of each section, indicating the subject of the particular section, and greatly abridging the labor of examination.

Mr. Curwen is well known to our readers as one of the able editors of the *Western Law Journal*, which is now in its tenth volume, and is conducted with signal ability, and we believe is to be found almost universally in the hands of the profession in the South and West. The execution of an exceedingly laborious editorial duty, in preparing such immense volumes for the press, in a manner so satisfactory to his professional brethren at home, cannot fail to add to the well-earned reputation which Mr. Curwen already enjoys.

Reports of Cases argued and determined in the Supreme Court of Errors of the State of Connecticut, prepared and published in pursuance of a statute law of the State, by Thomas Day, Vol. XXI. pp. 666. Hartford: Press of Case, Tiffany and Company. 1853.

From the early part of this century, we believe as early as 1805-6, the same name has appeared on the title pages of the Connecticut Reports, as the authorized reporter of the decisions of a tribunal always remarkable for learning, and a bar no less distinguished for skill. The circumstance that any one professional man should have given his brethren of the Bar a series of reports for half a century, is highly creditable in itself, and is without parallel in this country, and perhaps in any country.

No State Reports have been more deservedly esteemed than Day's, not only on account of their learning, and the faithful and accurate manner in which the judgments of the Court and the arguments of the Counsel have been presented, but from the interesting biographies of judges and contemporary members of the profession, which are to be found scattered

through their various pages; and much other matter of professional interest, well adapted to raise the standard of professional excellence.

Commendation of the labors of so experienced a reporter from us, would be useless, not to say arrogant. In the preface to first Conn., the reporter gives us the plan of his book. "In the plan of the work he has endeavored to follow the most approved models. The statements of the cases have been made from a careful inspection of the record; and the opinions of the judges have been transcribed from their notes. In exhibiting the arguments of counsel, he has aimed at distinctness and conciseness. He has sometimes stated only the points and authorities; and sometimes he has contented himself, especially where all the considerations urged are reviewed by the Court, with mentioning the names of counsel. In the marginal abstracts, he has studied perspicuity and precision; in the index, copiousness and systematic arrangement. The whole he submits, without anxiety, but not with "frigid indifference," to the judgment of a liberal profession."

In the preface to *twenty-first* Conn. the learned and venerable reporter tells us:—"After the completion of this volume, I shall retire from all responsibility of a public nature. On this event, touching as it is to me, and associated as it is with so many grateful recollections, I can only say, in view of "all the past," to those now living, *judices instructissimi, valete; socii dilectissimi, vos quoque valete!* My regrets at parting are however, in both cases, somewhat softened, by the hope I indulge, that their reputation, as jurists and jurisconsults, has not materially suffered, by passing through my hands."

The judgment of the professional tribunal, before whom the reporter has appeared, has matured during nearly two generations, and while the grand old common law shall be the inheritance of the American people, its principles will be sought in the volumes bearing the name of "Connecticut."

Crown Cases, reserved for consideration and decided by the Judges of England, from the year 1837 to the year 1844. By William Moody, of Lincoln's Inn, Barrister at Law, with Notes referring to American Decisions, by Hon. George Sharswood. Vol. II. pp. 418. Philadelphia: T. & J. W. Johnson, 197 Chestnut street. 1853.

Crown Cases reserved for consideration, and decided by the Judges of England, from the year 1844 to the year 1850. By Stephen Charles Denison, of the Inner Temple, Barrister at Law, with Notes referring to American Decisions, by George Sharswood; vol. I. pp. 636. Philadelphia: T. & J. W. Johnson, 1853.

Crown Cases, reserved for consideration and decided by the Judges of England, from the year 1850 to the year 1851. By Stephen Charles Denison, of the Inner Temple, Esq., Barrister at Law, continued from Trinity Term, 1851, to Trinity Term, 1852, by Robert Rouiere Pearce, of Gray's Inn, Esq., Barrister at Law, with Notes by George Sharswood; vol. II. pp. 543. Philadelphia: T. & J. W. Johnson, Chestnut street, 1853.

Crown Cases have not always attracted as much professional as popular attention. The principles of the criminal law are generally plain and well settled; crimes in one age are much the same as crimes in another, and when once a crime is accurately defined, the difficulty in the administration of justice is either in bringing the particular case within the definition, or making the application of established principles to the facts in hand, than in elaborating and applying a broad principle to a new and changing condition of things or social state. These volumes contain the best learning and most accurate thought, which all the English Judges could bring to the consideration of cases involving, generally, the liberty, and frequently the life of the subject, and are hence entitled to the highest professional regard.

The addition of American Notes, which we believe our friends, the publishers, have now adopted with nearly all their reprints, certainly all their standard reports, cannot fail to be of the first professional use. Criminal cases, especially in the rural districts, are frequently tried by young men without much time for preparation, and the utility of good notes and references is then much appreciated. Our pages have had so frequent occasion to commend Judge Sharswood's Notes, that we think it unnecessary to add a single word on the editorial portion of these books.

We cannot refrain from saying, that the typographical execution is the very best specimen which has fallen within our observation for a very long time. The type is large, clear and well leaded, and the paper white and substantial. For the comfort of the reader nothing can be better, and we commend the example to other publishing houses.