

NOTICES OF NEW BOOKS.

Daniel Webster as a Jurist:—An Address to the Students in the Law School of the University at Cambridge, by Joel Parker, L. L. D., Royall Professor, Cambridge. Bartlett, 1853.

This most judicious and discriminating estimate of Mr. Webster's character as a lawyer, was originally delivered in the form of a lecture in the course of C. J. Parker's Academical duties at Harvard, and at the request of the students. A happy opportunity was thus afforded of departing from the usual generalities of eulogium; and of making the career of so distinguished a jurist, a study for the imitation or instruction of those who were about to enter upon the same path. We have, therefore, a critical but most interesting account of the steps by which Mr. Webster raised himself from the obscurity of the awkward and unfriended country school-master, to the highest honors of his profession, and indeed made that profession the well-wrought pedestal of a grander and more enduring column of fame. It is much the old story, *Multa tuiti sudavitque puer*. Hard and persevering labor at first, a few lucky and well-improved opportunities, brought his extraordinary talents into notice; and thenceforth his forensic as well as his political course, is but a series of triumphs. Nor are those defects which unnoticed in mediocrity, are discernible in any great character, in proportion to its eminence and vigor, at all hidden. To have concealed these, would have been at once to falsify nature, and destroy the value of the picture.

To the more matured lawyer, this pamphlet will be attractive as well for the anecdotes of Mr. Webster's professional life, it contains, as the glimpses here and there into the preparation of those great constitutional cases, on which his fame is so justly founded. If the arguments on which the cases of the Dartmouth College, and *Gibbons vs. Ogden* were decided, did not entirely originate with him, it was by his powerful logic that they were best defended, and most conclusively established. We have given us quite a vivid picture of his opening in the latter case, and his conquest over C. J. Marshall's doubts.

"Mr. Webster having stated his positions to the Court, Judge Marshall laid down his pen, turned up his coat-cuffs, dropped back upon his chair, and looked sharply upon him; Mr. Webster continued to state his propositions in varied terms, until he saw his eyes sparkle and his doubts giving way; he then gave full scope to his argument, "for he never" he said, "felt the occasion of putting forth his powers as when he was arguing a question before Judge Marshall. Mr. Wirt followed, but Judge Marshall gave much of Mr. Webster's language and argument in his decision, with no more than a reference to Mr. Wirt's."—p. 37.

Certainly, whatever may be said of Mr. Webster's claim to be considered a thorough technical lawyer, an effect like this, on a judge of such vigorous independence of mind and sound learning, is the best tribute that can be paid to the powers of any advocate.