

sources of information and means of discovery which the nature of the case suggests, and which were accessible to him. *Harper vs. Scott*, 125.

*Jury.*—Where a juror, in the trial of a criminal cause, had formed and expressed a decided opinion as to the guilt of the defendant, before being impannelled and sworn, which fact was unknown to the defendant, until after the return of the verdict: *Held*, that such juror was disqualified from sitting on the trial, and that a new trial should be granted. *Wade vs. The State*, 25.

When a juror is found by triors to have formed a fixed opinion for or against the prisoner, and entertains it at the time, he is incompetent. *Willis vs. The State*, 444.

In *civil cases*, the jury are bound to find the law, as it is propounded to them by the Court. *The Bank of St. Mary's vs. The State, &c.*, 475.

#### NOTICES OF NEW BOOKS.

Reports of Cases Argued and Determined in the English Courts of Common Law, with Tables of the Cases and Principal Matters. Edited by Hon. Geo. Sharswood. Vol. LXXIII., containing the Cases determined in Trinity and Michaelmas Terms, 1851, and Hilary Term, 1852. Philadelphia: T. & J. W. Johnson, Law Booksellers, No. 197 Chestnut Street. 1854; pp. 1096.

The best criterion of the excellencé of this volume, is obtained by a comparison with the last volume of the Reports of our own Supreme Court (7 Harris). Not to speak of the mere mechanical execution (in which private enterprise has undoubtedly surpassed the work published by authority), the clearness, directness and fulness of the syllabus, the tables of cases, and cases cited, the Year Books (which might be replaced here by a list of English cases cited), Rules of Court and Maxims, Digests and Abridgments (all of which are wanting in our Penna. Reports), the Addenda and the Index, attest the superior industry and acumen of the English Reporter, while the modest and useful notes of the learned and distinguished American Editor give a practical value to the decisions. The simplicity of the language, the directness of application, the honest avowal of error (see Ch. J. Jervis' acknowledgment, in *Arden vs. Goodacre*, p. 375), the lively attention to the argument, the anxiety to do justice and to do it quickly, all put down in print, give to this volume a life and interest which greatly add to its merits as a student's book, as well as a lawyer's authority.

A Digest of the Conveyancing, Testamentary and Registry Laws of all the States of the Union, embracing References to the leading Decisions upon these subjects in most of the States, together with the Forms of Acknowledgment, Probate, Relinquishment, etc., required by the Statutes of and in use in each. Preceded by a brief Treatise on the general Rules relating to the Nature, Execution and Operation of Deeds and Wills, and followed by an Appendix of the most approved general Forms of those instruments. Being a Practical Manual and Guide for Lawyers, Public Officers and Men of Business. By James B. Thornton, of Memphis, Tenn., attorney at law. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1854; pp. 599.

This edition of Thornton is indeed a great advance upon the former one. The impediments and embarrassments under which any such extended and complicated enterprise must labor are very great. The first edition certainly was anything but free from defects, yet the profession eagerly purchased and constantly used it, with much satisfaction to themselves and their clients. As we understand the learned author, his work claims to be only a valuable practical manual, in which the necessary information in regard to the conveyancing in the various States and Territories has been collected together with fidelity and accuracy. It is therefore fair to test the book by this claim only; and when we consider the vast and complicated examinations of statutes and decisions which the preparation of such a volume must of necessity involve, it is remarkable that professional criticism should have detected so few errors or omissions.

---

English Reports in Law and Equity; containing Reports of Cases in the House of Lords, Privy Council, Courts of Equity and Common Law, and in the Admiralty and Ecclesiastical Courts; including also Cases in Bankruptcy and Crown Cases reserved. Edited by Edmund H. Bennett and Chauncey Smith, counsellors at law. Volume XVIII. containing Cases in the House of Lords, the Queen's Bench, Common Pleas and Exchequer, and Ecclesiastical Courts, during the years 1852 and '53. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1853; pp. 652.

To those professional brethren who are at a distance from the great marts of books, this series must prove almost indispensable. The cases are all taken from the two great ephemeral law publications of London, the *Jurist* and *Law Journal Reports*, works of character and marked ability, the one weekly and the other monthly, but which can be had, even in our Atlantic cities, only at an enormous expense, which few professional men are willing or able to encounter. In these days of steam and telegraphs, the most recent information from Westminster Hall is demanded, and this demand the great Boston publishing house seeks to supply, and do supply, by the series now before us. We have so frequently commended the former volumes, that it is now only necessary to announce the fact of publication, to inform the Bar that the volumes may be purchased.