

## 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. George Sharswood, Vol. LXXIV, containing cases in the Court of Common Pleas in Easter, Trinity, and Michaelmas Terms, 1852. Common Bench Reports, Vol. XII. By John Scott, Esq., of the Inner Temple, Barrister at Law: Philadelphia: T. & J. W. Johnson. 1854. pp. 878.

Queen's Bench Reports, Vol. II. By Thomas Flower Ellis, of the Middle Temple, and Colen Blackburn, of the Inner Temple, Esqrs., Barristers at Law. Containing part of Easter Term, Trinity Term and Vacation, and Michaelmas Term, 1853. English Common Law Reports, Vol. LXXV: Philadelphia: T. & J. W. Johnson. 1854. pp. 1040.

We again call the attention of our professional brethren to the established series of English Common Law Reports. We are now furnished with the very latest authentic reports of both the Queen's Bench and Common Pleas within a short time of their publication in England. The publishers, the Messrs. Johnson, of this City, have now, we believe, satisfied the profession by reprinting the Common Law Reports in full, without abridgment or mutilation, and by causing foot notes containing some brief references to American cases to be added by Judge Sharswood to each volume. These, together with the prompt issue of the various reports almost as soon as they appear on the other side of the Atlantic, deserve commendation and patronage.

The contents of these two volumes exhibit the usual varied and interesting character to be found in the litigation of a great commercial country like England, and will be read by the profession with interest and pleasure.

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The Statutes of the State of Ohio, of a General Nature, in force at the present time; with Notes and References to the Judicial Decisions thereon. By Maskell E. Curwen. Cincinnati: C. A. Morgan & Co., 1854.

This is a goodly octavo of nearly seventeen hundred pages, freighted to the brim with valuable and important matter. Digests of statutes are so often considered as matters of course, certain to be done by some one in a better or a worse way, that even when done in the best of ways, the student is apt to forget in the ease with which he obtains from them the most

important of knowledge, the judgment, industry and skill which have made that facility of acquisition possible. The responsibility alone which rests on one who undertakes such a task is seldom appreciated. A digest which has the appearance of care and accuracy, soon substitutes itself for the statute book itself, and in the railway course of business is referred to by bench and bar as the received standard of law. The practitioner, ever pressed by time, turns confidently to it, as he does to the town clock, which dispenses him from the trouble of an astronomical observation. And an error in the one, is not less contagious and fatal than in the other. We know of an instance where a misprint of a section of an act of Assembly, in a digest of high standing, gave rise to a judicial interpretation which settled the law for some twenty years, till some lawyer more cautious than the rest, by seeking the fount, instead of following the stream, as the old maxim goes, set the matter right. This consideration of itself would be sufficient to demonstrate the necessity of intrusting so important a labor to the hands of some one whose position for learning and accuracy is established.

Whether Mr. Curwen's edition of the public statutes of Ohio possesses this essential qualification, we can hardly, when we write, form a satisfactory judgment. If, however, his high reputation and the general appearance and characteristics of the book are a sufficient test, the work has certainly fallen into good hands. The editor has bestowed great industry and learning on the frequent and elaborate explanatory notes which he has appended to the text. In these notes, he has judiciously furnished not merely the Ohio decisions, but also those of England and other States, which would elucidate their subject matter, so that they may be consulted with profit by lawyers of other parts of the country, on analogous subjects.

The arrangement of the statutes adopted by Mr. Curwen is the chronological one, and in his introduction he has supported his choice by reasons which it is difficult to answer in a satisfactory manner. Certainly, where so full and careful an index is supplied as that which terminates this work, the objections which are usually urged against this plan must fall to the ground.

In conclusion, we may remark that we have seen very few books of this character, which indicated equal time, thought and labor in their preparation; and we can sincerely and cordially recommend it to such of our readers as from convenience or necessity may require a similar collection.