

with respect to the assignability of promissory notes by endorsement: Held, that it was matter of presumption that the law of both countries in that respect was identical. (See *Brown vs. Gracey*, 1 D. & R., N. P. 41. n.) The note in question having been made payable at a particular place, evidence was given of a presentment there, on the day upon which the bill would have fallen due, exclusive of days of grace, and that according to the custom of the Cape, no days of grace were allowed: Held, that the presentment was regular, inasmuch as the terms of the contract were regulated by the law of the place where that had been made. (See *Trimbevy vs. Vignier*, 1 Bing. N. C. 151.) *Russell vs. Kitchen*, 6 Ir. Jur. 218. (Q. B., Ir.)

Contract—Offer by letter—Acceptance—Further stipulation.—Where an offer by letter to supply goods is accepted, but the answer to the offer adds a further stipulation, to the effect that goods already supplied should be paid for at the rate contained in the offer, that is a new term in the agreement, and must be shown to be accepted. *Heyward vs. Barnes*, 26 L. T. 68. (C. B.)

NOTICES OF NEW BOOKS.

The Lives of the Chief Justices of the United States. By Henry Flanders, Esq. Lippincott, Grambo & Co: Philadelphia.

We have been favored with an inspection of the sheets of this work, which is now passing through the press. It is one which is designed to supply a serious want in our historical literature; and as such, and from its inherent merit, will be received with great satisfaction.

A book on the plan which the title-page above indicates, has peculiar advantages, and yet special dangers, when applied to the judicial history of the United States, in the hands of a professional lawyer.

The architecture of the Federal Government, so to speak, is emphatically legal in its character. In other countries, jurisprudence has never been much more to the edifice of state than a wing or a chamber, separate, if not subordinate, and recent in its origin; in ours, it is the corner-stone, the columns and the stays of the building itself. Its foundation is a legal document, couched in legal phraseology, chiefly drafted by lawyers, and the interpretation of which is confided, as the most precious of deposits,

to the hands of the judiciary. With small domestic authority and duties, its principal points of contact with foreign countries have resulted most frequently in complicated questions of international law, the necessities of which have turned our statesmen into jurists. The warp and woof of politics and law have thus been so closely blended in the texture of our history, that the elimination of either is impossible; and only those who possess a thorough acquaintance with the one can rightly explain the developments of the other.

On the other hand, as a natural consequence of this intimate connection, the men who have been most distinguished for their legal and constitutional knowledge have been those who have taken the most leading parts in the politics of the country. Especially was this the case in the cycle which succeeded the Revolution. Judges, such as Jay, Rutledge, and Marshall, prepared by a brilliant career in the struggle for independence, and afterwards in Congress and the Cabinet, for the eminence which they attained on the bench. The compass of their lives was as wide as the exigencies of their time. No biography, therefore, from a mere professional point of view could present a just picture of their public services; nor could their historical and their judicial characters be dissociated without destroying the truth and harmony of both.

Mr. Flanders has fully comprehended the difficulties and the duties of his task, and has accomplished it with great skill and completeness. His work will prove highly interesting and valuable to general, as well as professional readers. Its scope extends beyond that of a mere collection of biographies, and furnishes an historical review of the times and the contemporaries of its subjects. Sketches of the principal public men of the time, such as Hamilton, Pinckney, and others, who, though not directly in the centre of the field of view, are within the wide circumference of its horizon, are scattered through the work, and will prove, we think, a very attractive feature. The author has access to original sources of information; and considerable matter hitherto unpublished, shedding new light on our earlier history will be found in his pages. The first volume will contain the lives of Jay, Rutledge and Cushing, and will soon appear. Another volume is, we understand, in preparation.

In conclusion, we have no hesitation in expressing the opinion that Mr. Flanders' "Lives of the Chief Justices" will add greatly to the already high reputation he has obtained from his work on "Maritime Law," which has been recently received with so much favor.