

## NOTICES OF NEW BOOKS.

A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF BILLS OF EXCHANGE, PROMISSORY NOTES, BANK NOTES, BANKERS' CASH NOTES AND CHECKS. By John Barnard Byles, Serjeant-at-Law, &c. Fourth American, from the Sixth London edition, with additional notes, illustrating the law and practice in this country. By Hon George Sharswood. "*Vigilantibus non dormientibus jura subveniunt.*" Philadelphia: T. & J. W. Johnson & Co. 1856. 8vo, 670 pp.

The previous edition of Byles on Bills, by Judge Sharswood, was received with great favor by the profession at large. The book itself is by far the most convenient, compact, and accurate treatise on the subject, and the notes of the learned American editor were found to be, as is the case with all his other publications, full and carefully prepared. The present edition is enlarged, and in its mechanical arrangements, improved. The method of printing the notes across the page, instead of in double columns as before, is much more satisfactory. The typographical execution is also extremely good. The intrinsic merit of the book is so well known and the reputation of Judge Sharswood as a jurist so high, that they need no further commendation from us.

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PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPORTS, Vol. 24. By Geo. W. Harris, late State Reporter. THE SAME, Vol. 25. By Joseph Casey, State Reporter. Kay & Johnson, Philadelphia, 1856.

The last volume of Mr. Harris is quite as bad as any of its predecessors, but as its author has ceased to occupy the office of reporter, it is not worth while to waste further indignation and criticism in his direction. It is more important and fortunately more agreeable to examine the first fruits of his successor's labors. We are glad to say that in every respect there is a great change for the better. The statements of facts are generally clear and well made; the syllabus is accurate and sufficient; and when the argument of counsel is given, they are not made to talk absolute nonsense. There is some room for improvement perhaps, in several particulars, in comparison with the earlier standard of Pennsylvania reporting. But as Mr. Casey frankly states in his preface that he had been unable to bestow as much time and labor as he would otherwise have done on the preparation of this volume, we must, while we accept his excuse, forbear more extended criticism until the appearance of his next volume. In the meanwhile we can cordially welcome him into the circle of reporters, sincerely expecting that he will prove thoroughly competent for his position.