

NOTICES OF NEW BOOKS.

REPORTS OF CASES ARGUED AND DETERMINED IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE, DURING THE YEARS 1855-6, by JOHN L. P. SNEED, State Reporter. Volume III. Nashville: Published by C. Torbett & Co., Printers, Union and American office, 1857. pp. 768.

We were attracted to this volume by its neat mechanical execution, both of type and cover. In these particulars it certainly compares most favorably with the publications in any eastern city. An examination of the contents shows that the reporter has executed his duties in a most satisfactory manner. The syllabuses are really keys to the cases, and contain head notes which indicate the very subject matter in the cases. The volume itself embraces the usual variety to be found in any of our State reports, much that is local, some that is general, a good deal statutory law, and some common law. We give our readers an interesting case in this number, which will serve to show how both reporter and court discharge their duties.

DIGEST OF THE OPINIONS OF THE ATTORNEYS-GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES. With References to Leading Decisions of the Supreme Court. By C. C. ANDREWS, Counsellor at Law. Washington: Published by R. Farnham. 1857. pp. 488.

We have read this volume with great satisfaction. It is the only key to a large body of important law, not at all well known to the bar, hidden in volumes not very commonly in the hands of the profession, yet embracing topics of international, public, constitutional and municipal law, to say nothing of the construction of acts of Congress and foreign treaties, which must be known by the lawyer, whose practice is extended, and whose duty calls him into the federal tribunals, or before any of the departments of the general government.

When Mr. Andrews, who has been long connected with the office of the Solicitor of the Treasury, was entrusted with the duty of preparing this Digest, a most judicious choice was made; and the result of his labor is entirely satisfactory. His long familiarity with the duties of the department has enabled him to prepare a volume eminently useful and practical, and we commend it without hesitation.

A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF BILLS OF EXCHANGE, PROMISSORY NOTES, BANKERS' CASH NOTES, AND CHECKS, by JOHN BARNARD BYLES, Serjeant-at-Law, with a patent of precedence. The seventh edition, with Notes, from the third *American* edition. London: H. Sweet, 3 Chancery Lane, Fleet street, Law bookseller and publisher. 1857. pp. 556.

For the first time probably in the history of legal bibliography, we have an English edition of an English law book, acknowledging on its title page its obligations to an American editor. "With notes from the third American edition," is certainly a marked compliment to the American editor; and we have also the American editor's preface presented to the English bar. The merits of Mr. Byles' work have been heretofore considered in this journal, and the notes are so well and favorably known to the profession, that they need no commendation.

A TREATISE ON THE CRIMINAL LAW OF THE UNITED STATES, comprising a general view of the Criminal Jurisprudence of the Common and Civil Law, and a Digest of the penal statutes of the General Government, and of Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Ohio; with the Decisions on Cases arising upon those statutes. By FRANCIS WHARTON, author of "Precedents of Indictment and Pleas," "Medical Jurisprudence," "American Law of Homicide," etc. Fourth and revised edition. Philadelphia: Kay & Brother, 19 South Sixth street, Law Booksellers, Publishers and Importers. 1857. pp. 1252.

It would scarcely seem necessary to say anything in commendation of a book so well and so favorably known to the bar. But the very important additions which the learned author has seen fit to make, and the greater thoroughness and compactness of the volume, seem to demand some mention. It has always been admitted by the practitioners in the Criminal Courts, that until Mr. Wharton's first edition, no book existed which was of any very great use to the American lawyer,—the cases being found only in the Digests, and in notes appended to English treatises; but now, in this volume, every branch of Criminal Jurisprudence will be found fully exhibited, with appropriate citations and references, under its proper head. Much of the text of this edition has been re-written, and an admirable analytical index added, which fully exhibits at glance the contents of each separate paragraph. The extreme convenience of this simple table cannot be over estimated; it unlocks the whole book; and opens at a single view and

in the most compact form, the very subject matter of the text. It is a matter of surprise that legal authors should so often neglect this admirable method of exhibiting the result of their labors. To present a proper notice of the labors of Mr. Wharton in this revised edition, would require more space than we can command, but perhaps the mere announcement of a new edition will suffice.

DIGEST OF THE MARYLAND REPORTS, comprising Gills' Reports, nine vols; Maryland Reports, eight vols; Maryland Chancery Decisions, four vols. By J. SCHAFF STOCKETT, RICHARD T. MERRICK, and OLIVER MILLER, Attorneys at Law. Baltimore: Cushing & Bailey. 1857. pp. 632.

The absolute necessity of a Digest to unfold the contents of the State Reports, cannot be doubted. The labor to make one is perhaps the most disagreeable and least satisfactory professional literary work that can be engaged in. Accuracy and succinctness are indispensable requisites—absolute necessities. We cannot, of course, pretend to have examined this Digest with any great degree of thoroughness, but we have studied sufficiently, certain titles, to be able to express a highly favorable opinion of the toilsome labors of the learned editors, whose work is now presented to the profession.

The table of cases confirmed, or overruled, which is prefixed, is a most excellent and admirable addition to any Digest. The knowledge of what courts have said about cases is a kind of learning which is most useful to professional men. This table is not alphabetical, which detracts somewhat from the ease and convenience of reference; but, perhaps, could not be made so without a much larger consumption of space in the book than would have been justified. Some of the titles certainly deserve much commendation: thus, "Evidences" is very full and well executed; so the title "Equity;" "Statutes," is a most useful title; "Wills and Devises," is also very well prepared, and no doubt others which we have not examined. The learned authors deserve the thanks of their brethren for their useful labors.