

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

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By G. W. P.

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THE AMERICAN LAW REGISTER AND REVIEW has continued the policy of the old *American Law Register* in the matter of publishing in each number some important recent decision of an American or English Court, together with an annotation or brief upon the point of law discussed in the principal case. The annotations have been found useful by the profession, but in these days of rapid reporting, when the West Publishing Company puts into the hands of lawyers all over the country the decisions of the various Courts in an incredibly short time after those decisions have been handed down, it has become well nigh superfluous to burden the pages of this journal with long opinions and reports of cases which can so readily be found elsewhere. It should seem that THE AMERICAN LAW REGISTER AND REVIEW would better discharge its duty to its many readers if it were to substitute for the reported decision and single annotation now published in each number a brief statement of the point decided in several important cases (with a reference to the reporter in which they can be found) and careful annotations upon each of the cases thus summarized. Accordingly it is the intention of the editors to make this change in the autumn of the present year, and they will, by making it, be enabled to offer to their readers in the course of a year not twelve only, but fifty or sixty, elaborate briefs upon points of law of vital interest to the profession.

The annotations which have been published heretofore have earned for their writers much favorable comment and have made themselves almost indispensable to the profession. But it is the aim of the present management to make these annotations in the future the work of specialists upon the branch of law which they discuss—not merely the work of able and scholarly lawyers who could write with equal

facility upon any legal topic to which their attention might be directed. With this end in view a division of the whole field of law has been made into some sixteen heads or groups, and over each group a distinguished lawyer will preside as editor of the annotations relating to his specialty. This editor will be assisted by lawyers of his selection who will annotate decisions approved by him, and submit to him the results of their labors for final criticism and correction. From time to time the writers of these annotations will prepare, in consultation with their editor-in-chief, monographs or essays on some point of law relating to their specialty which will be published by the University of Pennsylvania Press in a continuous and connected series, uniform with the successful work of Mr. George STUART PATTERSON on "Contracts in Restraint of Trade," and with Mr. WILLIAM DRAPER LEWIS'S able essay on "The Federal Power over Commerce." It is conceived that a lawyer in search of a thorough and able discussion of a given point of law will find in the annotations of THE AMERICAN LAW REGISTER AND REVIEW which bear upon his subject, and in the monographs relating to it, the very object of which he is in quest. And it is the editors' hope that this new system will, before long, be patronized by the profession to such an extent that the management will feel justified in making other and further improvements in it.

Among the eminent lawyers who have consented to take charge of particular branches of the law as editors of the annotations and monographs we may mention the following: Commercial Law, FRANK P. PRICHARD, Esq., of the Philadelphia Bar; Admiralty, MORTON P. HENRY, Esq., author of "Admiralty Jurisdiction and Procedure;" Railways and Transportation, CHARLES F. BEACH, Jr., Esq., of the New York Bar, and author of "Commentaries on Private Corporations," etc.; Contracts in Restraint of Trade and Commercial "Trusts," H. LABARRE JAYNE, Esq., of the Philadelphia Bar; Equity Jurisprudence, R. C. McMURTRIE, Esq., of the Philadelphia Bar, and Patent Law, GEORGE HARDING, Esq., of the Philadelphia Bar. The fol-

lowing well-known lawyers are among those who have been asked to act, and with whom the editors are in correspondence at the time of going to press : Civil Courts and Procedure, Hon. GEORGE M. DALLAS, of the Circuit Court of Appeals ; Torts, MELVILLE M. BIGELOW, Esq., of the Boston University Law School, and author of "Bigelow on Torts." Insurance Law, GEORGE RICHARDS, Esq., of the Columbia Law School, and author of "Richards on Insurance ;" and Criminal Law, GEORGE S. GRAHAM, Esq., District Attorney of Philadelphia. Other names of editors-in-chief will be announced hereafter, and it is hoped that before long a complete prospectus can be issued, giving the names of the assistant editors in connection with the department to which they will devote their attention.

The business risk involved in such a venture is, of course, great. The expenses of publication of THE AMERICAN LAW REGISTER AND REVIEW will be materially increased, and the cost of bringing out the monographs will be enormous. The management, however, feels confident that the American Bar will recognize the importance of this enterprise, and will see in it the means of obtaining for briefs and arguments material of a character not to be found in such completeness in any other publication. As a step in the development of American law this enterprise is not without its significance, and many thoughtful lawyers will be especially attracted by this feature of it. Upon the whole, we are confident that we can appeal to the profession for their cordial support and co-operation, and we predict that the announcement which will shortly be issued by the University of Pennsylvania Press will awaken great interest in all parts of the country.