

One of the past masters in real property law in this Province, was the late Alexander Leith, Q.C., so well known to a generation fast passing away. In 1864 he published his first edition of Blackstone's second volume—a work of much learning and careful research, and in its day invaluable. In 1880, Mr. Leith, with the assistance of Mr. J. F. Smith, Q.C., the present excellent editor-in chief of *The Ontario Reports*, brought the law down to that date. During the past twenty years there has been no work in this country which has given us a comprehensive summary of the law of real property in this Province, though there have been a number of good, bad and indifferent books dealing with special branches of the subject.

It has happily fallen to the lot of Mr. Armour to take up the parable, and he gives us now, not so much a revised edition of the former works, as a treatise on real property, which, apart from matters historical, is largely his own. The original text as to matters of interest in that connection is very properly retained.

The preface shortly indicates the added matter as follows:—"The text of Blackstone upon the Feudal Law, and Ancient and Modern Tenures, has been retained, both for the use of students, and because the principles still exist as living principles in our law, and should not be lost sight of in any case. There have been added to the chapter on Incorporal Hereditaments a few pages on Ways; to the chapter on Estates less than Freehold, the cases under the modern portion of the Landlord and Tenant Act; to the chapter on Estates of Freehold not of Inheritance, the Obligations of Life Tenants, including the law of Waste; to the chapter on Estates upon Condition, the modern cases on Conditions Void for Repugnancy; and Blackstone's archaic arrangement of Mortgages under the head of Estates upon Condition has been abandoned, and a new chapter devoted to Mortgages. Dower, Curtesy, and Separate Estate are dealt with anew; the chapter on Deeds has been largely added to; and the chapters on Inheritance and Succession, Wills, the Statute of Limitations, and Conveyances by Tenants in Tail have been completely re-written."

Mr. Armour has been so long before the profession as a leading exponent of the law of Real Property, and has had such large experience in matters pertaining to legal literature in various ways that it is scarcely necessary to say that the work done by him on this occasion has been well done. To write a book on the principles of the law is not as easy as some persons might thoughtlessly imagine. There must be a careful and skilful handling of the subject, so as to give all the leading principles with a sufficiency of detail to illustrate them, without at the same time crowding the pages with such detail, or giving undue prominence to any one branch. There requires to be in writings of this kind, as in the art of the painter, the skill to duly proportion the subjects so as to give the general effect with such detail as may be necessary to fill in and make a complete whole.

It is, as we have implied, manifestly impossible, and under the circumstances would be objectionable, to be exhaustive on any subject, and Mr.