

*PROFESSIONAL ETHICS.*

Vol. 32 of the reports of the American Bar Association has come to hand, and it we find an old and valued friend. Many years ago we read and pondered with pleasure and profit Judge Sharswood's *Essay on Professional Ethics*, which has now reached its fifth edition. It is incomparably the best thing that has been published on that most important subject; and there is no better reading for a law student or lawyer or for any professional man than this masterly essay.

The whole book is full of meat of the most nutritious kind for the development of the highest ideal of a lawyer. The nobility and purity of thought and the intelligent grasp and luminous expression of his views as to matters connected with all branches of professional ethics and business department come out on every page.

Whilst strongly recommending those of our readers who have not read this book to do so without delay, we cannot forbear from making some extracts at the present time.

Speaking of legislation and law reform, whilst he deprecates "rash innovation and unceasing experiment" he claims that "it is a province of legislation by slow and cautious steps to amend the laws;" but that there must be no "blind attachment to principles of jurisprudence or rules of law because they are ancient. True conservatism is gradualism—the movement onward by slow, cautious and firm steps—but still movement, and that onward. The world neither physically, intellectually, nor morally, was made to stand still. As in her daily revolutions on her own axis, as well as her annual orbit round the sun, she never returns precisely to the same point in space which she has ever before occupied. It would seem to be the lesson which the Great Author of all Being would most deeply impress upon mind as he has written it upon matter: 'By ceaseless motion all that is subsists.'"

It is difficult to make choice of an extract to shew the author's