

teen chapters, entitled Power to Regulate Commerce; Registry, Enrollment, and License of Vessels; Owners; Sale and Transfer; Liens; Bottomry; Master; Seamen; Charter-Party; Bill of Lading; Carriers; Freight; General Average; Salvage; Towage; Pilotage; Wharfage; Collision; Prize. The author states that he has endeavored to put the results of his labors into the smallest space, with the most convenient arrangement, and the volume before us bears handsome evidence to the success which has crowned his efforts.

#### THE EGYPTIAN DEED.

Many readers of the *LEGAL NEWS* have probably never seen that interesting relic of antiquity, the Egyptian Deed. The authenticity of the document is maintained in an article in the *North American Review* for October, 1840, p. 313. The following note from the eleventh edition of "Kent's Commentaries" is a concise summary of the article:

"In the *North American Review* for October, 1840, p. 313, there is given a copy of an Egyptian deed in the Greek language, and under seal, with a certificate of Registry in a public office annexed, and executed in the year 106, B. C., or more than a century before the Christian era. It was written on papyrus, and found deposited, in good preservation, in a tomb in Upper Egypt, by the side of a mummy (probably that of Nechutes, the purchaser), and contains the sale of a piece of land in the city of Thebes. It has the brevity and simplicity of the Saxon deeds, so much commended by Spelman. It gives the names and titles of the sovereigns in whose time the instrument was executed, viz., Cleopatra, Ptolemy, her son, surnamed Alexander. It describes with precision the ages, stature and complexion, by way of identity, of each of the contracting parties, as, for instance, Pamonthes, one of the male grantors, aged about forty-five, of middle stature, dark complexion, handsome person, bald, round-faced, and straight-nosed. Semmuthis, one of the female grantors, aged about twenty-two years, of middle size, yellow complexion, round faced, flat-nosed, and of quiet demeanor.' It then goes on to state that the four grantors (two brothers and two sisters) have sold out the piece of land belonging to them in the southern part of the Memnonia,

eight thousand cubits of vacant ground, one-fourth part of the whole. The bounds are on the south by the Royal street; on the north and east by the land of Pamonthes, and Boker of Hermis, his brother, and the common land of the city; on the west by the house of Tephis, the son of Chalomn; a canal running through the middle, leading from the river. These are the abutters on all sides. Nechutes the Less, son of Asos, aged about forty years, of middle stature, yellow complexion, cheerful countenance, long face and straight nose, with a scar upon the middle of his forehead, has bought the same for one talent of brass money; the vendors being the actual salesman and warrantors of the sale. Nechutes, the purchaser, has accepted the same."

The learned annotator adds: "There seems to be no doubt of the authenticity and age of the instrument in the minds of the distinguished German, French and English scholars and profound antiquaries, who have studied the subject, or by the learned author of the article in the *North American Review*, and is one of the most curious and interesting legal documents that has been rescued from the ruins of remote antiquity."

It will be noticed that the ancient deed, executed over a century before the birth of Christ, contains a certificate of its registry in a public office. The practice in this respect in the nineteenth century adopts and re-affirms a practice conceived and prevalent in the dreamy days of the Egyptian Commonwealth, where history dwindles into fable and shadow.

#### CURRENT EVENTS.

##### ENGLAND.

**ACTIONS FOR BREACH OF PROMISE OF MARRIAGE.**  
—Mr. Herschell has carried in a modified form in the English Commons, his bill to restrain actions for breach of promise of marriage, the action being restricted to cases where actual pecuniary loss has been occasioned. The author of the bill occasioned some merriment by the humorous manner in which he pointed out that it is impossible in such cases for a man to expect justice to be done him by the jury. In future, unless ladies can show that they have suffered pecuniary loss through the faithlessness of their wooer, they must seek some