

## REVIEWS.

fixtures ; Practical avoidance of the rigour of the early law ; The law of the mixed agricultural and trade proper and the domestic or ornamental classes of fixtures ; Statement and illustration of the rule of the law of fixtures as evolved from the cases ; The measure and method of annexation being the first of the three subsidiary elements of the rule ; The construction of some written documents, being the second of the three subsidiary elements in the rule ; The derivative relations of the contending parties being the third of the three subsidiary elements of the rule.

He himself describes "The rule of the Law of Fixtures" as an attempt to gather up in one manageable formula all the numerous factors or elements requiring to be considered in advising upon modern cases. He attempts to arrange his so called factors or elements in the order of their relative importance.

Notwithstanding the use of some hazy expressions he handles the subject with considerable ability. He must have devoted a great deal of time to the reading and arranging of the cases so as to collect in order "the numerous factors or elements" appertaining to his subject.

The first edition of his work was published in 1871. It was in the judgment of the author himself open to the patent defects of "Sketchiness," and "Fragmentariness." The second edition was published in September last. His aim in the second edition has been to give the work an "independent character." He has in the second edition freely availed himself of decisions of the American Courts. They are certainly "free and independent." The confusion created by the American cases has in our judgment made a confused subject more confounded. They are noticeable for want of uniformity more than for any other characteristic. In some of the States barns and even houses are looked upon as personalty. In others trade machinery is looked upon as part of the freehold. It is a pity that the author did not travel from this field of confusion across the line which separates Canada from the United States, and rest for a short time in the Canadian field, where he would have discovered several decisions which would have added to the value of his work if not to its independence.

The subject of fixtures as trade and commerce increase is becoming daily of increased dimensions. Works on fixtures are for this reason to be welcomed, and we welcome Mr. Brown's work as being a novel, painstaking and reliable treatise on the law of fixtures. He has adopted the American system of writing his work in sections or paragraphs and consecutively numbering them. Where a book is likely to be one of authority and to pass through several editions this mode is much preferable to the ordinary English mode of numbered pages. The Index of matters is not so full as we would like to see it, but is by no means meagre. It demands peculiar talent to make a good index. Many persons imagine that any man who can write a book can write a good index for it. This is a mistake by many authors. It would be as difficult for some good authors to write a good index as for some good index makers to write a good book. The aptitude for the one is not proof of aptitude for the other.

The book, containing as it does, 200 pages, is printed with clear type and on superior paper. It, like all works published by Stevens & Haynes is, as regards mechanical execution all that can be either desired or required. Messrs. Stevens & Haynes have the ability to dress up the ideas of an author in a most captivating and becoming style.

A very remarkable man has just retired from the American Bench. Sir John Coleridge is said to have made the longest speech on record—and that is something if not to be proud of, at least to remember. Mr. Justice Nelson, Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, can boast that he sat on the Bench longer than any Judge that ever lived. Lord Mansfield served 22 years, and Lord Eldon 28. Chief Justice Marshall was 34 years on the Bench. Chief Justice Taney 30 years, Justice Story 34 years, and Chancellor Kent about 25 years. Chief Justice Nelson was appointed a circuit Judge in 1823, and therefore he has been on the Bench nearly half a century. He reached the age of 80 years on the 10th of last November, and a local journal says, "His massive frame, and strong mind, and cheerful temperament, all give promise of a long and useful life."—*Exchange*.