

*AN "AMERICAN" LAW BOOK.*

There was a time when we felt distinctly aggrieved at the usurpation by the people of the United States of the exclusive use of the term "Americans;" but that was before the Dominion of Canada had begun to loom so largely in the eyes of the nations as it does to-day. Primarily, of course, we citizens of Canada have just as good a right to the term as our cousins across the border; but the name "American" at the beginning of the twentieth century is not the symbol of

"the New World's best  
In doing and in character,"

that it was at the beginning of the nineteenth century, and, therefore, we are not loath to let Dr. Murray in his monumental work the new Oxford dictionary, finally deliver up this adjective with its fine flavor of "shirt sleeve" ethics, to the exclusive use and occupation of the denizens of the neighbouring republic. "Canadian" is a good enough name for us with which to confront a future big with promise of achievement, a future of which the present is a sure pledge or token.

The foregoing reflections have been induced by our happening upon an "American" law-book entitled: "A Treatise on Commercial Law and Business Customs, by Andrew M. Hargis, of Grand Island, Nebraska." If such a book had to be written at all, we are glad the Fates decreed that it should be the product of an "American" author—but that is the only cause for gladness we find in it. True the Canadian output of legal literature is small, but this book would not have enriched it, although there's "richness in it," as Mr. Squeers would say. In one respect the book is especially notable. In his preface the learned author says, with a modesty that is the only "un-American" thing in the whole volume, "No particular claim is laid to originality in this work;" yet it is the most original alleged law-book that ever was written. There never was anything like it from the day of the beginning of the world until the day of the date thereof.

We have only space for one or two quotations, but it is a case where the sage's counsel: "Ab uno disce omnes" applies with singular force. Take this from the first chapter:—"Law may be divided into four separate classes: Moral Law, Natural Law, International Law and Municipal Law (*Mu-nis-i-pal*)" (sic). From this it will be gleaned that Grand Island, Nebraska, has not only given to "America" a philosopher of the law, but an orthoepist as well. As the book is avowedly written as "a text-book for use in schools and