

the Law Reports of our greater Colonies and have treated them on the same footing as I have the home decisions.

The quotations from the Civil Law are taken either from the Elzevir edition of 1663 or the Amsterdam edition of 1700 when some other source is not indicated.

My references to Pothier, that king of jurists, are to Bugnet's Paris edition of 1847. In most cases the edition of any book that I have referred to is indicated in the reference.

To the officers of the Inner Temple Library, a model institution, liberally and efficiently managed, well arranged and most accessible, my unqualified gratitude is due for the patience and courtesy with which during the past two years they have treated one whom they could not regard as other than a constantly recurring nuisance. The assistance I have had from the Librarian and his staff has enabled me to overcome many a difficulty that else I should have yielded to. To Mr. Snell specially are my thanks due for the courage and instant readiness with which he has, at some periods almost daily, mounted to the top rungs of ladders of unstable appearance and struggled to extricate from the obscurity of murky shelves, even at the risk of no inconsiderable bodily hurt, some mighty volume, may be of Meerman's Thesaurus or Beawes's Lex Mercatoria, to satisfy my passion for an absolutely authentic quotation or reference. We have both, I am happy to say, issued from the perils, he of falling, I of being fallen on, unscathed. Would that bulky books were kept on shelves on the floor!

Mr. Riches, the Librarian of the Inns of Court Bar Library, has again taken entire charge of the various tables of references. I know no one who can dispute precedence with him in this branch of the work of giving birth to a law book; and I know that he has loyally put at my disposal all his skill. Mr. Sydney E. Williams, of Lincoln's Inn, has most kindly relieved me of the charge of the Index. Himself an author of repute, I hope that the time he has bestowed on my work will not conduce to deprive the profession of the enlightenment it receives from his own.

Finally, for myself, I implore indulgence for the negligences and ignorances into which, in the course of this long and complicated work, I cannot but have again and again fallen. In extenuation may I urge—*Verum opere in longo fas est obrepere somnum*.

THOMAS BEVEN.

1 TEMPLE GARDENS,
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