

# Canada Law Journal.

VOL. XLIX.

TORONTO, AUGUST

Nos. 15 and 16

## *THE LAWYER IN LITERATURE.*

This is the subject discussed by John Marshall Gest, Judge of the Orphans' Court, Philadelphia, in a book just published by the Boston Book Co. It consists of papers read before several Law Schools and Law Clubs in the United States, originally published in the University of Pennsylvania Law Review. Those who desire some very interesting and instructive reading would do well to obtain this volume; and, after reading the introduction thereto by John H. Wigmore, Professor of Law in the North Western University, they will be more than ever impressed with the desirability of, and the pleasure to be derived from, an adequate attention to general literature which bears upon professional matters apart from the study of reports and legal text-books. Mr. Wigmore's short paper is so suggestive that we give our readers the benefit of it, as follows:—

The compliment is an agreeable one, to be allowed to figure as the Introducer of so accomplished a legal scholar as the author of these essays. When they first saw the light in the Pennsylvania Law Review, I was among those who urged that they receive a more permanent form in our literature; and it is a satisfaction to see this proper destiny now shaped for them.

Who, that has already made acquaintance with these characters of the law in Dickens and the rest, will not take pleasure in comparing notes upon them with Judge Gest? Who, that has his favourites and his aversions among them, will not be interested in the author's new points of view, his fuller survey, his keen judgment, his trenchant wit, his generous sympathies, his illuminating comments?

And yet a main use of the book ought to be to send those readers to the originals who have never been there. Can a lawyer—I mean one of self-respect, of aspiration, of devotion to his art and science,—can he afford to ignore his profession as it is glassed in the literature of life?