GENERAL NOTES.

FOREIGN MARRIAGES.—The much-needed Foreign Marriage Act, 1892, (55 & 56 Vict. c. 23), 'to consolidate enactments relating to the marriage of British subjects outside the United Kingdom' has reduced the law of this subject to a fairly intelligible code. The two Consular Marriage Acts of 1849 and 1868, the Marriage Act, 1890, and the Foreign Marriage Act, 1891, are all wholly repealed, and, except as repealed before, re-enacted, the new statute containing twenty-seven sections. It is to be regretted, however, that the powers given to the Privy Council to make 'marriage regulations' have not been curtailed. Section 21 of the new Act repeats section 9 of the Act of 1890, and sections 5 and 10 of the Act of 1891, enacting, amongst other things, that the marriage regulations may 'modify in special cases or classes of cases the requirements of this Act as to residence and notice, so far as such modifications appear to Her Majesty to be consistent with the observance of due precautions against clandestine marriages,' and also may 'make such provisions as seem necessary or proper for carrying into effect this Act or any marriage regulations.' It is difficult to say what marriage regulations would not be within the scope of this very extensive provision. Section 26, we may add, specially provides that any Order in Council in force under any Act repealed by the new Act shall continue in force as if made in pursuance of the new Act, which has the effect of 'saving' the important 'Foreign Marriages Order in Council, 1890,' made on November 22, published in the *London Gazette* of November 25 of that year.—*Law Journal* (London).

THE CANADIAN CRIMINAL CODE.—Lord Stanley of Preston, as Governor-General of Canada, recently congratulated the Parliament of that colony on having passed a Criminal Code Bill. This bill, as presented to the colonial Legislature, contained no less than 1,005 clauses. Amongst them are three very important ones dealing with the right of an accused person to give evidence on his own behalf. Fifteen offences, none of them very serious, are selected, and with regard to these it is provided that the evidence of the accused is to be admissible, and a like provision is made with regard to charges of more serious offences, with respect to which the only case made out is one of common assault; but, with these exceptions, the rule of the English common law (which successive law officers have so very frequently and vainly tried to alter on this side of the Atlantic) is re-enacted, to the effect that no person charged in any criminal proceeding is to be rendered competent or compellable to give evidence for or against himself. This contrasts strangely with the course taken by the Victorian Parliament, on which we recently commented, of entirely abrogating the common law rule as to all offences whatever, with certain restrictions as to procedure.—*Ib.*