

*Novels*, it seems, made their appearance in rapid succession, and were sometimes written in Greek, the language in which they are still extant in the *Corpus Juris Civilis*.

We have thus traced, though in a very cursory and I fear a very imperfect manner, the origin, progress and completion of the Code, the Pandects and the Institutes; and if we pause for a moment to contemplate the vast treasury of human wisdom and experience from which they have been derived, it will be no theme of surprise that these immortal compilations should have received the sanction of all civilized nations, and have been bodily adopted as texts of law by most European Countries, and received partially by all. The reference to them as written reason, in the Courts of all enlightened communities, even in those in which they possess no authority as law, is the highest order of approbation and praise which could be conferred upon them. and the universal assent of mankind to those branches of Roman Jurisprudence which are generally applicable to the transactions of civilized societies—such as the large subject of contracts, bailments, servitudes, prescription, and many others, fixes indelibly the stamp of wisdom on laws that could thus happily have generalized and settled the Rules of action by which men should be and are in truth governed.

That these invaluable repositories of legal learning should have been preserved to us amidst the vicissitudes that marked the History of Europe and Asia-Minor, during the barbarous and the middle ages, seems almost providential, especially when we consider that down to the middle of the fifteenth century, when the art of printing was invented, they existed, but in M. S. S., exposed not only to the destruction of the elements and the depredations of barbarian warfare, but were even threatened by the cupidity or ignorance of idle scriveners, poets or novellists, who not unfrequently obliterated inestimable M. S. S. of the description of the Institutes or the Pandects, for the purpose