

WESTMINSTER REVIEW.

Mr. Houston's attempt to bring together in a single collection the documents which contain the constitution of the Dominion of Canada and illustrate its historical development has resulted in the publication of a volume that will without doubt grow in favor as it becomes known to students of political and legal science. Its value to all who are interested in tracing the progressive course of Canadian history is simply incalculable. The explanatory notes which are freely furnished to elucidate what may appear involved or obscure in these documents have a special value in themselves, and supply a substantial outline of Canadian History. . . . A series of Governor-Generals' commissions and Royal Instructions, closing with those of Lord Stanley of Preston, complete the volume. There are, however, between sixty and seventy pages of "Appendixes," which are as useful as any in the main portion of the book. Mr. Houston's belief that the true line of development of the Canadian constitution takes us back, not to the French régime in Canada, but to the colonial governments of what is now the United States, accounts for the absence of all French documents except the articles of capitulation of Quebec and Montreal, as well as for the inclusion of the constitution of the United States of America in an appendix. We would suggest, however, that the task to which Mr. Houston has applied himself with so admirable a zeal and with so much industry will receive a fitting supplement by the publication, as he finds leisure and opportunity, of a selection of the chief documents leading up to the earliest period of Canadian history, a period certainly equally as interesting, if it does not in importance, as that with which he deals in the present volume.

HARVARD LAW REVIEW.

This is a collection in one volume of the documents which contain the constitution of the Dominion of Canada, and illustrate its historical development. If to reprint a number of these old Acts and Conventions, and accompany them with historical information and references in the form of notes, appears either no very difficult thing to do, or a thing of uncertain value when done, it must be said that the result is a book which a person who studies or teaches Canadian constitutional history cannot afford to neglect. The needs of students of political and legal science in universities and law schools are held primarily in view in the scheme of this work; but it also presents facts which men who are not specialists, but who care for history, wish to have at command. Especially noteworthy groups of treaties are those relating to extradition and to the fisheries stipulations with France and the United States.

POLITICAL SCIENCE QUARTERLY (New York).

Mr. Houston opens with an introductory chapter on the method of studying history in general and Canadian constitutional history in particular. He advocates the study of the documents themselves, without the aid, or as he would call it, the interference of lectures. . . . The notes which have been placed at the end of some of the groups of documents show the source of the texts and explain obscurities, thus rendering much aid to the student of the subject.

NEW YORK NATION.

While the value of this collection as a mere work of reference is obvious and incontestable, the author has also had in mind its use in the historical seminary, as he points out in a sensible introduction. He has omitted all French documents except the Capitulations of Quebec and Montreal, on the ground that the line of development of the Canadian Constitution leads back to the colonial governments of what is now the United States, by way of our constitution, which he reprints after very careful collation with original notes. In like manner, his chronological table is arranged with right and left hand entries so as to show side by side the events for Canada and the United States. . . . In short, Mr. Houston's scholarly labors are of international utility, and his volume should find a place in all our libraries and in every well-regulated newspaper office.

EDINBURGH SCOTSMAN.

Mr. William Houston's collection of "Documents" will be welcome to students of international law generally, and particularly so to any one who wishes to study the political development of the Dominion of Canada in its historical aspect. The book is all the more valuable because it is rather that of a librarian than of a professor. The author, that is to say, does not set forth any view of his own or statement of his own, but puts the documents in the hands of the reader that he may draw his own conclusions. Skill of the most useful kind is shown both in the selection of the adminicles of political right brought together in the book, in the careful, helpful, and condensed notes that accompany them, and in the volume's equipment of chronological tables, index, and appendixes. The statutes, treaties, and commissions teach better than a book of lectures could the history of the Canadian constitution.

TORONTO GLOBE.

Considered merely as a work of reference, Mr. Houston's book is exceedingly important and useful. But the author thinks, and we agree with him, that it will serve a still more important purpose, namely, as a basis for a thorough study of the political history of Canada. In the introduction, which is not the least valuable part of the work, he states his views on the teaching of this subject. The history of the constitution is to be traced largely by means of documents, and it is better for the student to read and try to understand these for himself than to derive his knowledge of them "from a text book writer's gloss, or a lecturer's interpretation." Mr. Houston's work is a very important step towards the making of an accurate and comprehensive history of Canada.

TORONTO EMPIRE.

It has sometimes been asserted in a general way that Canada has no history. A work, however, has just been published by William Houston, M.A., which not only displays considerable erudition and praiseworthy diligence, but opens up a rich mine of knowledge upon constitutions, institutions, and international law, in so far as Canada is concerned. . . . No statesman, man of letters, or patriotic Canadian but will be glad to welcome this volume as a contribution to the memory of those historic events and times which have exerted such an effect upon the moulding of this young nationality.