

Code were accordingly passed, dealing with the pressing needs of these times. In due course, and in 1834, the Regulations began to be replaced yearly by numerous Acts of the Supreme Legislative Council, affecting different districts or tracts of country in various ways. These enactments were amended and partially repealed, as occasion required, and we thus acquired a rather various assortment of laws.

To come to the present times. Since Her Majesty took over the reins of government from the horrible East India Company, the attention of our legislators has been chiefly directed to the crystallizing of uniform laws having force throughout the whole Indian Empire. The work of codification (suggested, it is said, by Lord Macaulay) commenced with the Penal Code, contemplated many years before, but only introduced by Sir Barnes Peacock in 1860. But with what result? Scarcely a vestige remains of Acts of the Supreme Council previous to 1871. Instead of being obliged to have recourse to countless perplexing and confusing, not to say contradictory, decisions, requiring long study, we now have succinct codes adapted to the peculiar requirements of, and easily understood by, the lay community. Amongst these may be mentioned the following enactments: Indian Penal Code, Indian Succession Act, Indian Evidence Act, and Indian Contract Act (all passed in 1872); Specific Relief Act, Registration Act, and Limitation Act (all passed in 1877); Negotiable Instruments' Act, Joint Stock Company's Act, Transfer of Property Act, Criminal Procedure Code (all passed in 1882), and Landlord and Tenant Act.

Besides putting a stop to suttee and slavery, causing a decided check to infanticide and thuggee, and legalizing the marriage of Hindoo widows, many anomalies deplored in other countries have been swept away or beneficially modified. Let me instance a few which, to British and Canadian lawyers, may seem somewhat strange.

Subject to the obligation to register transfers of land valued at over 100 rupees, no distinction exists between the mode of transfer *inter vivos* in realty and personalty. All estates, both movable and immovable (European and native), devolve in the same channel and on one description of representative, namely, the executor or administrator, and thus we get rid of the useless distinction between the transfer or devolution of realty and personalty which renders English and American systems of law so intricate.

Executors, as persons supposed to have been selected by the testator himself, have full and uncontrolled power to dispose of not only the personal but also the real estates of their testators. So have the administrators of Europeans. The administrators of natives' estates are, after 1st May next, 1889, to be in no way hampered as regards disposal of movables, such as Government securities and shares or outstandings, but it has not been deemed desirable to invest them with disposing power over immovable property, save with the leave of the Court.

Here in India no derivative executorship is recognized in connection with wills or codicils executed, or grants obtained, since the beginning of 1860.

Nor is this all. In India, sealed deeds do not import consideration; simple contracts and documents under seal (known as specialties) stand on the same