

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE—REVIEWS.

criminal charge;" and these papers should be, we think, in the custody of the county attorney, and they should remain in his hands until the case they concern is finally disposed of. At and after the trial the papers should remain on file with the clerk of the peace. We think that ten cents a folio is all that any officer could reasonably ask for copies of deposition, &c.; indeed we are under the impression that five cents a folio is all that can be legally demanded by the county attorney for copies.—Eds. L. J.]

REVIEWS.

THE MUNICIPAL MANUAL FOR UPPER CANADA; containing the new Municipal and Assessment Acts, with Notes of all decided cases, and a full Index. By Robert A. Harrison, Esq., D.C.L., Barrister-at-law. Second Edition, 1866. Toronto: W. C. Chewett & Co.

Part I. of this valuable work has been just issued; and the other parts, we are informed by the publishers, will appear very shortly, probably before the great body of the Act comes into force, on the first of January next. That part of the Act which came into force on the first of November last is however embraced in the number of the Manual now before us, and this fact alone will render it of great service to that large portion of the community who take a part and an interest in our municipal elections.

It may be premature just now to speak of the book as a whole, with only the first instalment before us; but taking the former edition as a type of the present one, we may safely assume that the new Manual will be found as the old one has been, a reliable guide to the proper understanding of the law, and a safe counsellor to those acting under its provisions.

Mr. Harrison's Municipal Manual has indeed for the past eight years been, as it were, a household word amongst all classes, lawyers or laymen, who have been brought into contact with the working of our Municipal system; and, now that the law has been revised and amended by the legislature, the absence of such a work, embracing the changes which have been made, would be much felt by those who had been in the constant habit of referring to it whenever a doubt arose as to the meaning of any provision.

A great portion of the old law which had been found to work satisfactorily, has been re-enacted—a circumstance which gives an additional value to Mr. Harrison's present labors, inasmuch as many doubtful points have been settled by decisions of the courts within the past eight years, and these decisions have been all carefully collected and annotated in the present edition of the work, thus placing

under the eye of both lawyers and laymen, information which the latter could not obtain except through the former, and which the former had to acquire at the cost of much labor and research.

Even our non professional readers are, for the most part, aware that the only safe interpretation of the law is to be found in the decisions of the Courts, and this being the case, the value of an accumulation of these decisions, extending over a series of years, on the clauses of a particular enactment, will be readily understood and appreciated—especially with reference to the law which governs the working of our Municipal Institutions—a law second in importance to none on our statute book, and affecting bodies which are in themselves minor parliaments possessing extensive but limited powers which it is of great importance to the community should be easily ascertained and correctly defined.

We feel that in making any allusion to Mr. Harrison's special fitness and ability to again undertake the task of annotating the Municipal and Assessment Laws, we are treading on rather delicate ground, inasmuch as that gentleman is one of the conductors of this journal, although his editorial duties do not come within this department of our labors, but the writer of this notice can, at least, say that his remarks on the same subject, written nearly eight years since for this journal have, he has reason to believe, been fully justified, namely: "that Mr. Harrison's well-known character as an annotator was, of itself, a guarantee that no labor had been spared in making the Manual a desideratum for every lawyer and member, or officer of a Municipal Council in the Province." The same remarks will certainly, apply with even greater force to the present work, and as a corroboration of the writer's opinion on the subject, we may quote from the remarks of a learned County Court Judge of great experience, made on a recent occasion when addressing the grand jury of the County of Simcoe, shortly after the passing of the new Municipal Act, and published in the local papers, from which we quote. Referring to the announcement of a forthcoming new edition of Mr. Harrison's Municipal Manual, the learned judge said that "he (Mr. Harrison) had made the subject his own, and that from the Manual he had himself received most valuable aid in the discharge of his duties. He had reason to know that the work was found to be of the greatest possible assistance to Municipal officers in Upper Canada; that the able and carefully prepared notes it contained must have largely contributed to the safe working of the law; that since the issue of the first edition of the work many cases had been before his own courts upon the several provisions of the statutes, and many cases in England upon analogous enactments, all of which he had no doubt, would be referred to and turned to account in the new work." It is only necessary to glance through the book