

notwithstanding that his deductions are as unsupported as his reported cases (12 to 14 George III.) are unreliable, and neither is now referred to in reports or text-books. 'He published legal, theological, political, poetical, and other works, of which almost all are forgotten.'

In 1823, Peter Halkerstons, LL.D., published at Edinburgh, 'A Collection of Latin Maxims and Rules in Law and Equity, selected from the most Eminent Authorities on the Civil, Canon, Feudal, English, and Scotch Law.' The book contains about 1,500 maxims, with translations, in alphabetical order.

The pages of the earliest commentators, tract-writers, 'note-takers,' and digest-makers seem to have been industriously gleaned for Latin, Anglo-Norman, Anglo-Saxon, Norman-French, and Early English phrases, as the preferred material for the work of dictionary editors.

As regards the character of the expressions culled from them for explanation, a fact seemingly overlooked by the profession is, that while the number of the expressions runs into the thousands, the principle of selection is not discoverable, for there is a vast multitude left unrendered, all calling, one would think, for the elaborate explanation bestowed upon the favored ones not of a technical legal signification. Upon almost every page of Littleton, of Coke upon Littleton, and of the older text-writers and case-collectors, are expressions nowhere explained in the dictionaries, yet absolutely essential to an understanding of passages; and hence, as appropriate in such compilations, if any non technical expressions can be, as those explained at length.

Many phrases explained in the lexicons are rendered *in loco* by the original writers. Others are self-interpreting to the intelligent reader, to whose presumed knowledge of elementary Latin at least something must be credited. A great number are peculiar formations not found outside the publication of perhaps one early writer or of one careless copyist of unofficial notes of cases increasingly enriched by 'clerical' interpolations. Moreover, it is safe to conjecture that these oldest phrases are understood, without reference to dictionaries, by the few men who, in their researches, find it agreeable to go back to the beginning of the reportorial epoch and to the oldest treatises.

Still another fact revealed by a study of these compilations is that they contain not a few phrases for which no authority is given, but which seem to have been originated by some coinor