

account of the method which he pursued for acquiring his wonderful command of choice juridical diction. It was his custom for many years.....to read a chapter of Blackstone of a morning, and then take a long walk and repeat to himself all that he could remember of what he had read, even to the very words and phrases in those parts that were important, such as definitions and the like.....and in this way he went through the commentaries until they were perfectly mastered, both in matter and form, so that he became almost a walking commentary himself. His case illustrates the oft-repeated injunction, "Beware of the man with one book," and when the one book mastered in this way is such a book as Blackstone's Commentaries, it is easy to comprehend what power and beauty may be acquired and laid by for future use in the display of forensic eloquence.

GENERAL NOTES.

JUDICIAL KNOWLEDGE.—The story runs that the Fellows of the Common Room at Trinity, provoked at the omniscience of Dr. Whewell, once laid a plot to disconcert and humble that *helluo librorum*. With this object they got up 'Chinese Metaphysics' in the 'Encyclopædia Britannica,' and then casually started the topic after dinner and flaunted their recondite knowledge, as they hoped, to the dismay of the Doctor. At last one of them propounded some theory on the subject which aroused the attention of the master. 'Why,' he said, 'that's been exploded long ago. You must have been reading my old article on "Chinese Metaphysics" in the "Britannica"!' We are reminded of this story by the little interlude which took place between Baron Pollock and counsel recently. It was about some dealings in stocks. 'Perhaps I ought to explain to your lordship,' said the ingenuous counsel, 'the meaning of the word "contango," as your lordship may not be acquainted with it. It is a term employed on the Stock Exchange——' 'Thank you, Mr. X.,' said the learned Baron, 'but as I was for several years counsel for the Stock Exchange, you need not labour the point. I think I understand it.' The judicial innocence of mundane matters, whether stage or Stock Exchange, manifested by judges is sometimes amazing, but under this white-robed innocence we not infrequently find an equally amazing amount of worldly wisdom surviving from the experiences of the Bar.—*Law Journal*.