

REVIEWS.

of the Crown. No work of the kind has since been published, and Mr. Forsyth, who is well known as a legal writer, has done good service to his profession by the production of a similar volume, which in some degree bridges over the period of time between the first publication of Chalmers' Opinions and the present time. In this volume, which is elegantly printed and presents a highly creditable appearance, we find opinions of Lord Lyndhurst, Lord Abinger, Lord Truro, Lord Denman, Lord Cranworth, Lord Campbell, Lord St. Leonards, Lord Romilly, Lord Westbury, Lord Cairns, Lord Chief Justice Cockburn, and Lord Chief Baron Kelly.

The collection of these opinions appears to have been a labour of considerable difficulty. The opinions of the law officers of the Crown it is said are scattered over 2,000 or 3,000 volumes of manuscript, without any general index whatever. This is very discreditable to those who, during the time these opinions were given, presided over the departments of Government in which the opinions are recorded. One is at a loss to understand why such gross neglect should be allowed, not merely to exist, but to be of such long continuance. However, in contrast with this exposure of official negligence, it is pleasant to note the assistance given by some of the heads of departments to Mr. Forsyth in the preparation of his work. Fortunately for the value of the work, so far as the Colonies are concerned, Earl Granville, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, was particularly kind in the assistance which he gave; but this cannot be said of the Earl of Clarendon and the Foreign Office.

No opinions given since 1856 have been placed in the series. We regret that the learned author did not publish opinions given since that year. We cannot conceive of any valid reason against their publication, and expect in a new edition of the work to see this want supplied. We should like to be placed in possession of the official opinions of Sir Roundell Palmer, and other law officers of great distinction in our profession.

Several of the opinions published affect Canada. One dated 21st February, 1826, as to the appointment of a Roman Catholic Bishop in Canada, will be perused with much interest. Others of equal interest to us will be found in the volume.

We must not forget to mention the valu-

able notes of the authors. Some are the result of much thought, great search and display, considerable legal acumen. The notes as to extradition of criminals may be here mentioned. The author shows that the extradition of criminals is a matter of country not of right, except in the cases of special convention, and refers in a clear manner to several special conventions and Acts of Parliament passed to give effect to them.

The opinions which are varied and diversified, are well classified as follows:—The common law and statute law applicable to the Colonies; ecclesiastical law applicable to the Colonies; the powers and duties and civil and criminal liabilities of governors of Colonies; Vice-Admiralty jurisdiction and piracy; certain prerogatives of the Crown; martial law and courts-martial; extra territorial jurisdiction; the *lex loci* and *lex fori*; allegiance of aliens; extradition; appeals from the Colonies; the revocation of charters; the nationality of a ship, and other matters relating to ships; the power of the Crown to grant exclusive rights of trade; the writ of *habeas corpus*; certain points relating to criminal law, and miscellaneous subjects. Our chief regret is that the general index to the volume, though full, is not more full and exhaustive. In a future edition we trust this will be remedied. But upon the whole we are well pleased with the work, and frankly commend it to the patronage of all lawyers and others who take an interest in the relations of the parent state to their Colonies, and at present that interest is wide spread both at home and here. Mr. Forsyth at the present juncture has done good service, not only to his profession but to all men who take any interest in public affairs, and we therefore hope that those for who the book is especially intended will not be backward in giving to it that support which the industry and ability of its author, and the public spirit and enterprise of its publishers so well deserve.

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This adds another to the many journals published in the United States, we may even say in Pennsylvania. It presents an excellent appearance, and would seem to be well and vigorously edited. It is intended to supply a local want, though many of the cases to be found in it are of general interest.