

REVIEWS.

found it of service even in these modern days. Mr. Coppinger's work appears to be framed on the same plan. What Mr. Petersdorff did in 1822, and did well, in civil and criminal pleading, Mr. Coppinger has done and done well, in 1872, in conveyancing, common and commercial forms. Both gentlemen endeavoured to combine the analytical with the alphabetical order of arrangement. Mr. Coppinger, of the two, has, we think, in this respect, been the more successful. It may be urged against Mr. Coppinger, as it was urged against Mr. Petersdorff, that the value of his compilation would have been enhanced by a diligent examination of the precedents referred to, and that the index should have been confined to those of acknowledged correctness. But "acknowledged correctness" is an indefinite term. That which one man may think correct another may think incorrect, and that which no man may think correct may yet be useful to a man of fair learning, good judgment, and ordinary caution.

In Mr. Coppinger's index reference is made to 10,000 precedents, and yet the whole work is only 570 pages. We cannot better declare in what manner the author has performed his work, and his reasons for so doing, than by the use of his words. "Not only precedents of a modern character have been indexed, but such precedents in the earlier collections as may with slight alteration be adapted to the exigencies of existing circumstances. It has not been deemed advisable to exclude forms framed under acts of parliament which may have since been rejected, nor those which are virtually the effect of causes no longer necessitating a peculiar form, if such form may prove possibly of assistance either as a precedent or connection with other matters, or as a guide in construing an assurance or instrument under the altered state of the law. * * * For similar reasons a precedent has not been rejected on account of its verbosity or unnecessary length. Many a precedent, in its entirety now obsolete, may prove useful and suggestive as a guide in the preparation of a deed more suited to the style and phraseology of modern times, and the learning and precision of our earlier draftsmen may be resuscitated, if for this purpose alone, with advantage."

An index such as this is more permanent in structure than ordinary law books, and

its value is less injured by the lapse of time than ordinary text books. But its value will be less diminished if its possessor will take the trouble to have his volume interleaved, and note new precedents as they come forth from the "womb of time."

The mechanical execution of the work is in Messrs. Stevens & Haynes best style, which is saying a good deal. The perspicuity of an author, however, is sometimes blunted by the blunders of his printer; but here both author and printer appear to have worked in the same spirit, and that is to make the work a success. We hope they have done so, for their efforts deserve it.

THE CANADIAN MONTHLY AND NATIONAL REVIEW. Adam Stevenson & Co., Toronto. Nos. 1 and 2. (Price \$3 00 per annum.)

So many attempts to establish a periodical in this country which should be a vehicle for the development of English literature in Canada have resulted in failure, that every fresh attempt is regarded with some misgiving. Inasmuch, however, as Confederation has opened a wider field, both as a market and a source of supply, and as every year increases that field and adds to its fertility, we may hope that the effort now made will be attended with happier results.

Typographically, the new magazine is a credit to this country, and especially to Toronto, where the business of publication seems to be largely established. Nor do the contents of the first two numbers belie the neat, plain, yet attractive exterior. Sufficiently solid, without being heavy, they are like a well baked home-made loaf, sustaining, yet easy of digestion. Variety prevails; but, thank the conductor, *no sensationalism*. May they ever avoid that rock on which so much of our periodical literature is wrecked, and rendered useless for everything but mischief!

To get at the best part of these numbers we must begin at the end, where the "Book Reviews" are to be found. The critique in the February number upon Mr. Freeman's historical essay is very interesting, and that upon Longfellow's "Divine Tragedy" is a gem, which even the warmest admirer of Mr. Longfellow cannot fail to appreciate, even if they are forced to the conclusion that for once he has made a mistake. *Query*.—Could not a nicer phrase than this be hit upon? Surely "Book Re-