

THE NEW DIGEST—CARELESS TEXT BOOKS.

pounds seventeen shillings and six pence. Carried. Year 27; days 27. We read that a statute was passed in 1803 which recited that great inconvenience was felt "in several parts of this Province from the want of a sufficient number of persons duly authorized to practice the profession of the law," and empowered the Governor to admit *six* additional practitioners. Modern legislation has a different tendency, and it can hardly be said that now, as Plinius Secundus puts it with gentle irony, "Upper Canada enjoys an inadequate supply of lawyers." In 1823 the first Reporter to the Courts was appointed, whose duty it was to submit, on the first day of each term, a fair report of the decisions of the preceding term; which report, after due examination and correction by the whole Court, was to be signed by all the Judges in open court. The gentleman who held the office first was Thomas Taylor, Esq., who was followed by Mr. Draper and Mr. Sherwood, and in 1843 the Reporter was Mr. John Hillyard Cameron. A specimen of the reported cases is preserved, it being assumed perhaps that "*Curia Canadenses*" would outlive the original volumes, in which the unaccommodating Doe, greatest and most litigious of landowners, complains of the lawless intrusions of the irrepressible Roe. We have said enough to show that the little book before us is not without its value to Canadian lawyers.

We even wish our author had been more garrulously inclined. There were many notable incidents which he must have seen or heard described in his time, which a chronicler of legal events might well have woven into his narrative. For instance, the famous prosecution of Robert Randall at Niagara for perjury; the action against the editor of the *Colonial Advocate* for libel, when that indomitable Scotchman defended himself successfully, in a speech of four hours' duration; or, at

a later date, the trial of the adventurer Von Schultz and his associates, whose forlorn defence was undertaken by a fearless young advocate whose name, familiarly abbreviated into "John A.," has since become a household word. There are many events of this sort which, as yet, live only in the conversation of a few grey-headed men.

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We have received, as doubtless have most of our readers, the first part of the new Digest, by Mr. Christopher Robinson and Mr. F. J. Joseph. To say that it is most welcome, scarcely expresses the delight which the hard-worked members of the profession will feel at its appearance. It had come to this, that the English, Irish, and American Reports were practically more accessible than our own. Mr. Robinson and Mr. Joseph "have changed all that," (at least as far as the middle of the letter A.) Our crowded columns this month prevent our referring at any length to this new Digest, and at present we shall only request those gentlemen, to whom the long vacation must be as useless for recreative purposes it is to ourselves, to let us have the rest of the parts as fast as the printer can work them off.

SELECTIONS.

CARELESS TEXT BOOKS.

During the discussion in the Court of Queen's Bench, as to the power of the court to adjourn a criminal trial for the purpose of obtaining further evidence, one of the judges read the following passage from "*Archbold's Criminal Pleading*," (p. 145, 14th sect.) "*Adjournment of Trial*.—Where the witnesses for the prosecution have all been examined, the judge may order the court to be adjourned, and direct another trial to be proceeded with in order to give time for the production of a thing essential to the proof de-