

WE are promised great light on the new Bills of Exchange Act. Two months ago (*ante* p. 417) we gave some extracts from the forthcoming work of the learned Master in Ordinary, Thomas Hodgins, Q.C. We hear that Mr. Maclaren, Q.C., has also in preparation an annotated edition of the same Act, and we have now before us the advance sheets of Mr. Edward H. Smythe's book. Between them all we surely ought to have all available information gathered for the instruction of the profession. They will doubtless differ in their treatment of the subject. Our readers can judge of Mr. Hodgins' labors by the extracts already given, and we can safely predicate from the past that his work will be fully and carefully done. Mr. Smythe (and we are glad to welcome this contribution from the old capital of this Province, historic Kingston) has committed the publication of his volume to The J. E. Bryant Publishing Company; and we must say that their part of the work, as well as his, so far as it has gone, is admirably done, the paper and printing being first-rate. We do not gather that it is intended by the author to attempt to compete with the standard works on Bills and Notes, but rather to give practising lawyers a convenient hand-book, pointing out the changes introduced by the recent Act and their effect upon the previous state of the law; whilst, at the same time, giving full references to the decisions in our own Courts, and further fortifying his propositions by the citation of leading cases in England.

WE yield to none in our love and admiration of the profession of the law. Its nobility cannot be successfully impugned, and it is because we are perfectly satisfied that it is a noble profession that we do not think that it needs any *ad captandum* arguments to prove it. It is for that reason we must respectfully demur to the argument put forth by Mr. R. Cunliffe, the President of the Incorporated Law Society, in his address at the recent annual meeting of the Society at Nottingham.

Mr. Cunliffe says: "Mr. Lake styled our profession 'noble,' and is it not so? Is it not our duty to advise those who require advice; to help those who are wronged to obtain redress for their wrongs; to assist the weak against the strong, the oppressed against the oppressor; to advise our clients how to keep their own and to recover that which is wrongfully withheld from them; to endeavor to obtain justice for all who seek our assistance in obtaining it; to arrange family disputes, and to endeavor (in matters in which we are consulted) to procure that each person interested in property gets his proper share of it and no more? And these being the duties of our profession, you will, I think, agree with me, that Mr. Lake was right in his choice of the term 'noble,' as applicable to it."

We can fancy some prosaic and level-headed auditor saying, "Mr. Cunliffe, I see you base the claim of your profession to be a 'noble' one on the ground that it is the duty of its members to help the wronged, to assist the weak, and the oppressed; but in all law suits, I have noticed that generally solicitors are employed, not merely on the side which is wronged, or weak, or oppressed. The wrongdoer, the strong, and the oppressor, all have their solicitors. If the claim of your profession to nobility rests on no better ground than this, it does not appear very well founded." And on the whole, we think the prosaic individual would be