

LAW SOCIETY—CRITICISMS ON REPORTERS.

entitling Students or Articled Clerks to pass examinations to be called to the Bar or receive certificates of fitness, examinations passed before or during Term shall be construed as passed at the actual date of the Examination, or as of the first day of Term, whichever shall be most favorable to the student or clerk, and all students entered on the Books of the Society during any Term shall be deemed to have been so entered on the first day of the Term.

On motion made, resolved, that the third clause of the Report of the Committee on Reporting be communicated by the Secretary to the Reporter of the Court of Chancery.

On motion made, resolved, that the Attorney-General be requested to introduce a Bill during the present Session of Parliament, amending the section substituted for the 57th section of chap. 35 of the consolidated statutes of Upper Canada, so as to make the penalty therein mentioned apply to attorneys practising in the County Court.

J. HILLYARD CAMERON,
Treasurer.

CRITICISMS ON TEXT-WRITERS. REPORTERS, AND OTHER LEGAL AUTHORITIES.

Dr. Allibore, of Philadelphia, (famous for his elaborate "Dictionary of Authors") wrote a pamphlet some few years ago on the subject of "Bibliography," in which he maintained that a critical manual of legal bibliography is a great desideratum in the literature of the law. Such a book, containing a list of all law-works in the English language, or applicable to the English system of law, with references to the reports where they are cited, and with critical estimates of their value and correctness, would be of great value to bench and bar. Such a treatise is a thing well-nigh to be despaired of by any

single author in this fast-living and fast-writing age. We do not say entirely to be despaired of, because we remember the wonderful monument of patience and research which Mr. Bigelow, of Boston, has reared in his "Index of Over-ruled Cases;" but still few (if any) lawyers would be willing to devote the requisite time and labour demanded for such an undertaking. Yet much may be done by the gradual accretion of materials for such a work by contributors to legal journals, and it is with this view that we are desirous to add our little collection of criticisms to others which we have from time to time published. Some few reporters, omitted from our former papers, are now inserted; and as before, we have endeavoured not to repeat notices that have been heretofore printed.

BEAWES' *LEX MERCATORIA* "is frequently referred to by all text-writers, and treated as a book of eminent authority:" per Mallin, V.C. in *Re Overend*, L.R. 6 Eq. 364.

BELL'S COMMENTARY ON THE LAW OF SCOTLAND. "A work of which it is difficult to speak in terms of adequate commendation," 18 Law Mag. 17.

BENJAMIN'S TREATISE ON THE SALES OF PERSONAL PROPERTY: "appears to be very ably written": Lord Chelmsford in *Shepherd v. Harrison*, 20 W. R. 8.

BEST ON EVIDENCE "One of the best works on our laws": Wills, J. in *Briggs' case*, 1 D. and B. Cro. Ca. 102.—"A very valuable text-book": Stuart, V.C., in *Sidbottom v. Adkins*, 3 Jur. N.S. 632. "a very remarkable book": Stuart, V. C., in *Mariett v. Anchor Ins. Co.*,—8 Jur. N. S. 52.—"A very valuable treatise": Wills, J. in *Hollighan v. Head*, 4 C. B. N. S. 391.

BLACKSTONE'S COMMENTARIES. "I am always sorry to hear Mr. Justice Blackstone's Commentaries cited as an authority; he would have been very sorry himself to hear the book so cited; he did not consider it such: Lord Chan. Redesdale in *Shannon v. Shannon*, 1 Sch. and Ref. 327. Blackstone's positions have been frequently over-ruled; as for example in *Liddard v. Kain*, 2 Bing. 183; *Richardson v. Gray* 29 U. C. Q. B. 364.