

REVIEWS.

matters of science, no other authority ought to be submitted to. All, therefore, that the editor has to wish is that these reports may have leave to speak for themselves, and that reason with respect to them may be allowed to stand in the place of authority."

The instructive chapter which precedes the cases, entitled "A proposal for rendering the Laws of England clear and certain," gives the volume a degree of peculiar interest, independent of the value of many of the reported cases. That chapter begins with words which ought, for the information of every people, to be printed in letters of gold. They are as follows—"Nothing conduces more to the peace and prosperity of every nation than good laws and the due execution of them." The history of the civil law is then rapidly traced. Next a history is given of English reporters, beginning with the reporters of the Year Books from 1 Ed. III. to 12 Hen. VIII.—being near 200 years—and afterwards to the time of the author. In speaking of the qualifications of a good reporter, he says: "A good reporter should have a liberal education, understand both the theory and practice of the law, be able clearly to comprehend the reasoning of the judges, and be ready at writing down what he hears in shorthand, or otherwise, and afterwards digesting it." So in his preface he says: "He is the best reporter, who relates the greatest number of circumstances of a case and the reasons of the Judge, most at large. And, indeed, by a too earnest desire to be concise the reporter often becomes obscure; an error of the worst kind, and which is here carefully avoided." This was remarkably good advice in 1770, and has, by very many calling themselves reporters, been since disregarded. If Cunningham were now alive we think he would be appalled at the number of companions one is obliged to place alongside of his, in bookshelves. With the increase of the number of volumes is increased the labour of those who are obliged to refer to them.

This volume of Cunningham's (like "Bellewe's Cases" and "Choyce Cases") is, in type, paper, binding, &c., a *fac-simile* of the original. The scarcity of the volume and consequent high price has been the inducement to the publishers to reprint the volume.

SIR GEORGE COOKE'S REPORTS AND CASES OF PRACTICE IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, 1706 to 1747. The third edition, with the additional cases and references contained in MS. notes made by L. C. J. Eyre and Mr. Justice Nares. Edited by Thomas Townsend Bucknill, of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-Law. London: Stevens & Haynes, 1872. In 8vo., £3 3s.

This is the fourth volume of Messrs. Stevens and Haynes' series of antique reports. Like its predecessors it is a *fac-simile* of the original. Sir George Cooke was Chief Prothonotary of the Common Bench. His reports have long been out of print. They have at all times been in good repute and copies anxiously sought for. In 3 Wilson, 184, Sergeant Jephson, citing *Palmer v. Sir J. Edwards*, said, "See the case at length, for it seems well reported by that very able chief prothonotary of the C. B."

The reason given by the publishers for the selection of Sir George Cooke's Reports as the next volume in the series, was because of their having become possessed of a copy formerly belonging to Mr. Justice Nares, and containing numerous MS. notes. These notes appear to have been partly his own and partly copied from notes made by Chief Justice Eyre. The authenticity of these notes is confirmed by Mr. Justice Nares. In *Crossley v. Shaw*, 2 W. Bl., 1088, he is reported to have said, "I have seen a manuscript note of Chief Justice Eyre of the case of Rawlins and Parry, which agrees with Sir George Cooke's."

These additions will add greatly to the value of the original volume. They have been carefully revised by the editor.

The original volume was published "In the Savoy, Printed by Henry Lintot (assignee of Edward Sayer, Esq.), for J. Stephens, at the Hand and Star, in Fleet Street; J. Werrall, at the Dove, in Bell Yard, near Lincoln's Inn; T. Waller, at the Crown and Mitre, and W. Sandby, at the Ship, in Fleet Street, 1747." Law books never can die or remain long dead so long as Stevens & Haynes are willing to continue them or revive them when dead. It is certainly surprising to see with what facial accuracy an old volume of reports may be produced by these modern publishers, whose good taste is only equalled by their enterprise.