

community required, especially in the law of procedure, was very wide. The system of pleading and procedure had grown to be so technical as to defeat in many cases the cause of justice. This was eminently true of the common law system of pleading and procedure, and even the system of equity was equally open to the reproach of undue technicality and of intolerable delays. The need for a cheaper, simpler, and more expeditious procedure at law and in equity had become a crying want. Mr. Field, if he did not originate the idea, clearly put himself at the head of the movement to remedy the evil. This he did at an early stage in his professional life, and to this as well as to the codification, looking to improvement in criminal law and procedure, as well as in substantive law, he gave without ceasing, being instant in season and out of season, more than fifty years of his active career. He advocated the principle of codification everywhere. He was a man of strong feelings and convictions. Every man of real force is so, almost necessarily. He, therefore, fought for codification; and he fought with dauntless courage everybody who opposed him. We may think that he unduly estimated the scope, the value and the beneficence of codification. He may have done so. Effective and true reformers are apt to go too far. But this detracts not the least from the estimation in which he is justly entitled to be held by the bar and the public. I do not wish to surround him with a haze of golden panegyric. He does not need it. Look at his public labors in municipal and international law, extending from 1839 to 1894, and what lawyer in this country, dead or living, has ever dedicated half as many years as he to conscientious and unselfish efforts to improve our laws and jurisprudence? In this view he stands without a peer. Consider the successes which have crowned his work in this country, in England and in the English colonies, and his career is strikingly distinctive. It dominates our legal landscape. True, some of his schemes of law amendment failed of adoption, those more especially relating to the codification of the common law, but he seized upon one principle which he made eminently successful and which in turn made him famous and justly so, namely, the simplification of the law of procedure. The New York Code of 1843, in substance or principle, Mr. Field lived to see adopted in a large majority of the States and territories of the Union, and in the Judicature Act of 1873 of the British Parliament.

[Concluded in next issue.]