

REVIEWS—ITEMS.

difficulty can be experienced in finding that which is sought. The volume proper contains no less than 552 pages. Added to this is an appendix, 364 pages, containing all material acts relating to railways and the standing orders of the Houses of Lords and Commons, and the index. The latter alone is so comprehensive as to embrace 80 pages. The mechanical execution of the work by the law publishers, under whose auspices the work is issued is all that could be expected from a firm so well known and so eminent as Messrs. Stevenson & Hagues. Their agents in Toronto are Adams, Stevens & Co. and Messrs. W. C. Chewett & Co. Orders left with either firm will receive prompt attention.

MR. DICKENS AND THE PEERAGE.—It is the privilege of literary men to blunder about legal matters, but Mr. Charles Dickens has abused the privilege. In his speech at the Liverpool banquet he vindicated himself from the charge of disparaging the House of Lords, and explained to his audience that he enjoyed the friendship of many members of that House, not least among whom was *Lord Chief Justice Cockburn*. Now Mr. Charles Dickens has known Sir Alexander Cockburn for many years, and even if for a portion of that time he had imagined that the Chief Justice was a peer, we should have supposed that the truth might have dawned on him in December last, when his illustrious friend was offered and declined a peerage. Up to the delivery of the Liverpool speech we had believed that the celebrated 'Pandects of the Benares' could not be eclipsed; but anything is possible when a *littérateur* of the loftiest pretensions does not know whether the man 'whom he loves more than any other in England' is a commoner or a peer.—*Law Journal*.

The law is preserved in reports, of which there are many thousand volumes; so that any one in ignorance of the law has only to purchase or borrow these, compare the different decisions, and apply them all to his own case, when he will either be right, or have the happiness of correcting the law by a fresh decision telling him that he is wrong.—*Comic Blackstone*.

What an attorney is, everybody who has got an attorney will no doubt be aware, but those who are ignorant on the point may feel assured that ignorance is unquestionably bliss, at least in this instance. We, however, are far from intending to stigmatise all attorneys as bad—and the race of roguish lawyers would soon be extinct if roguish clients did not raise a demand for them. No man need have a knave for his attorney unless he chooses; and when he goes by preference to a roguish lawyer, it must be presumed that he has his reasons for not trusting his affairs to an honest one.—*Comic Blackstone*.

BARON PENZANCE.—The elevation of Sir James Plaisted Wilde, who has held the office of Judge-Ordinary of the Probate and Divorce Court since July 1863, to the peerage will give unqualified satisfaction to the legal profession and to the general public. There is no judge on the Bench whose conduct can be so easily criticised and so clearly appreciated by the suitors, because the principles and the procedure of the Courts of Probate and Divorce are perfectly intelligible to the non-professional community. Indeed, the Judge-Ordinary of the Divorce Court needs rather the possession of great moral qualities than high legal attainments, and we are unable to call to mind the name of any judge who, in temper, discretion, and good sense, has excelled Sir James Wilde. Old men can remember the time when judges seemed to forget the very existence of the suitors, and to imagine that a cause or an argument was a mere forensic struggle, in which judges and Bar had to take part for the better sharpening of their wits, or the better elucidation of the law. Sir James Wilde has taken precisely the opposite view of the duty imposed upon a judge. He has kept his attention steadily fixed on the suitor, and he has ever laid himself open to the charge of creating or encouraging irregularities in practice by his unflinching anxiety to save expense and do justice. We need not here enlarge on his legal acumen, his elegant diction, his lucidity of expression, and his accurate perception of human character. The honour of the peerage has never been more fairly earned by a judge. His Lordship takes the style and title of Baron Penzance, of Penzance, in the county of Cornwall. It will not be forgotten that Baron Penzance is the nephew of the first Lord Truro.—*Law Journal*.

JUDGES ON HORSEBACK.—The number of judges who have suffered from accidents in riding is somewhat remarkable. The lamentable accident to Sir Cresswell Cresswell will not easily be forgotten. Sir William Erie, who has always been conspicuous as a rider, has had more than one awkward fall, and we believe that Sir Rowland Williams has not been more fortunate. The present Chief Justice of the Common Pleas was, a short time ago, carried by his horse into a position of much peril at Working, and during the present assize the Chief Justice of England and Mr. Justice Hayes have both sustained falls.—*Law Journal*.

NEWSPAPER DIRECTORY.—G. P. Rowell & Co., the New York Advertising Agents, are about issuing a complete American Newspaper Directory. It is a compilation much needed, since no thing of the kind having any claims to completeness have ever been published. Messrs. Rowell & Co. have spared no pains or expense to make the forthcoming work complete. We understand the book will be a handsome octavo volume of about 300 pages, bound in dark cloth, and sold for \$5 00 per copy. As the publishers are Advertising Agents, their issuing a work containing so much information, usually jealously guarded by those in that business, shows that they are confident of their ability to be of service to advertisers, or they would not so readily place in their hands the means of enabling every one to communicate direct with publishers if they so desire.