

## REVIEWS.

3. There are some mischievous conditions of things, such as an unlawful assembly, which ought to be punished as crimes, and which cannot be brought about except by the concurrence of more persons than one.

4. There may be cases in which acts done by several persons in agreement ought to be punished, although the same acts ought not to be punished if done without agreement.

5. In an imperfect system of criminal law, the doctrine of criminal agreements for acts not criminal, may be of great practical value for the punishment of persons for acts which are not, but which ought to be, made punishable, irrespective of agreement, and especially for some kinds of fraud; but this use of the doctrine involves an important delegation of a legislative power in a matter in which the exercise of such a power ought to be carefully guarded, since the legislature admits its own inability to devise the principles on which legislation ought to proceed.

The author of this little work exhibits much originality, and boldness, though in some places there is an obscurity which may partly be accounted for by the very nature of the subject. His effort to discover the principles which underlie the law of Criminal Conspiracy, as supposed to be understood and as really administered in England, is deserving of much praise. But, unfortunately, the exigencies of society at times are such, or supposed to be such, as to demand departure from previously recognized principles. These "new departures" are not more frequent in the branch of law treated of by Mr. Wright, than in other branches of criminal law. Judges, too often, when acting under the serious belief that they are expounding the law, are really making new laws. Hence the growth of one particular branch of law into many ramifications. The root several centuries since may have been small and easy of discernment, but like the mustard tree in the gospel, its branches are now so mighty that the fowls of the air dwell therein. It is not, therefore, to be wondered at that a gentleman who has endeavoured from the root to trace the branches, should, after the lapse of several centuries, to some extent find himself "*in nubibus*."

In a second edition we shall hope to see an Index which is wanting in this.

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE—Leonard Scott Publishing Company—140 Fulton Street, New York.

We presume that every being must be fed with that food which best suits its organization. Some, indeed, seem to thrive on poison, so at least we might suppose, from the quantity they consume—some weak creatures, on the other hand, become daily more so by a plentiful supply of pap—others again seem to have the digestion of ostriches, and thrive on steel filings. These things are well in their way, but for our part we prefer something that partakes of the excellencies of each.

Our legal reader who has now enjoyed four weeks of his summer vacation, and may therefore be supposed to be gradually recovering from the comatic state of utter exhaustion, superinduced by his violent exertions on behalf of ungrateful clients, will perhaps perceive that we speak of food, not material but mental.

*Blackwood* is neither poison, pap, nor steel filings, but, providing food for the craving and relaxation for the weary, gilds its intellectual pills in such a manner as not to frighten those who have but a spark of intellect left which can be fanned into a brighter blaze.

The July issue now before us, is a "specimen number." All we miss, and we thank our stars that it is so, is the usual political article which generally concludes each part. The novel reader has as much as is good for him in the eighth book of "*The Parisians*." The intelligent observer and charming writer who produces the series of articles on French Home Life, gives us a review of marriage as made and understood in the typical nation of the great Keltic family. Spain now struggling to throw off the deep sleep of ages, is spoken of in an article describing the celebrated Guerilla Chief and Curé, Santa Cruz. We applaud especially, however, the attempt of a writer in an article headed "*Newfoundland*" to enlighten the minds of his countrymen on Colonial subjects. We fondly hope that before the close of another century, the crass ignorance of Englishmen as to matters transpiring beyond the length of their noses, when that organ is pointing in a westerly direction, will disappear. The other articles are, "*The Four Ages*;" "*The Rate of Discount*," and "*Alexander Dumas*."