

REVIEWS.

educated reader, that give the great value to the treatise; it will, we apprehend, be even more appreciated by another class of readers—those with a special knowledge of various abstruse political questions will find in it light and assistance. It is, however, only in general terms that we can speak of it in the latter sense, and we only admire at a distance those evidences of deep learning in the science of politics which is possessed by comparatively few men in England, and fewer still in Canada. When judged by those possessing this technical knowledge we think we may venture to predict that the result will be as satisfactory as it has proved to be when examined by the more general reader.

In Canada the value of such a work at this particular juncture cannot be too highly estimated. In England it is possible for leading politicians—with more wealth and consequent leisure, with a greater diffusion of political knowledge, a more liberal education than is obtainable here, and aided by the traditions of Parliamentary Government which seem to pervade the atmosphere of the British Houses of Parliament—without any *lex scripta*, to keep with but little deviation in the beaten path; here, however, it is necessarily and obviously different, and the want of even an elementary sketch has been keenly felt, and this brings to our mind another great feature in Mr. Todd's book, and that is, that it seems as admirably adapted for one class of readers as the other—equally useful as an elementary work for the student and of reference to the more advanced politician.

One more remark and we must reluctantly leave an author that has given us the most unqualified pleasure; the first volume bore evidence of Mr. Todd's strong views as to the propriety of withstanding the democratic tendency of the age, so much so that the only adverse criticism was, that the first volume had a "conservative" bias, however, that may be, the most ardent liberal can find nothing to complain of in the second volume, in fact, for all that appears therein, the learning of the author might reasonably be said to be in favour of the "whigs." But may not all this be explained to one who has read both volumes, by comparing the different subjects treated of in each, and the evident anxiety to see maintained that even balance between the sovereign and his people, so necessary for the integrity of a

limited monarchy, such as now exists in the British Isles.

Such a work as this that we have now so inadequately spoken of, is just one that should be made part of the course of education for any man who aspires to any knowledge of how he should govern and how he is governed, it should therefore be made part of the course in colleges and higher class of schools; it would not be even out of place in some one of the examinations intended to test the fitness of students for call to the bar. The fact that it is written by a Canadian author need not alarm those in authority; the reputation of the author as one of the most valuable contributors to the literature of this century is now established, and as such he has already been welcomed in England and Canada by those best able to judge of his merits.

CASES AND OPINIONS ON CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AND VARIOUS POINTS OF ENGLISH JURISPRUDENCE, COLLECTED AND DIGESTED FROM OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS AND OTHER SOURCES, WITH NOTES, by William Forsyth, Esq., M.A., Q.C. London: Stevens and Haynes, Law Publishers, 11, Bell Yard, Temple Bar.

We have to thank the publishers for an advance copy of this work, which we have examined with curiosity and interest. The opinions of law officers of the Crown, though not as binding as legal decisions, are of great weight. In England the law officers are generally men of high standing in their profession, and men whose names give weight to any opinions pronounced by them on questions of law. And when men eminent in their profession, in the discharge of their public duties, give well-considered opinions to the Crown on questions of jurisprudence, their opinions are deserving of unusual respect.

In 1814 George Chalmers who, after an eventful life died in London on 31st May, 1825, published a volume of such opinions which, though not well arranged, has been much esteemed both in England and the United States, and in the latter country was re-published by C. Goodrich and Company, of Burlington, as late as 1858. It contains the opinions of such eminent men as Lord Somers, Chief Justice Holt, Lord Hardwicke, Lord Talbot and Lord Mansfield, when law officers