

## CORRESPONDENCE. REVIEWS.

chinery to properly deal with it ; to all which I answer, I neither believe the sincerity or truth of the excuse nor the assumed inferiority of the Judges of the Law Courts ; but, supposing all were as they assert, why could not the Legislature have supplied the law courts with the required machinery ? and what sort of a legislative measure is it which gives us a Court of Appeal—which tries appeals from Chancery and the Law Courts indiscriminately—yet is, and always was, composed of but one Chancery to three mere Common Law men : and if those one Chancery and three mere Common Law Judges have hitherto decided, and still decide, satisfactorily, all Chancery questions on appeal, why could not each law court, with proper machinery, given it by Statute, and one Equity Judge in it, equally well decide all equity questions, subject to appeal ?

From the foregoing it will be seen I am not a madly zealous partizan of Chancery or Common Law, who cannot see the defects of both, or the good features which both undoubtedly possess, or who would not wish to improve all that can be improved in every court. My motto is fair play to all, favours to none ; neither do I find any fault with the judges of any court. They have all done the best they could with the sort of machines supplied them. My aim is to increase their usefulness, by giving them better machines to work with. I yield to no man in my admiration of the essential principles of equity, but I know by experience that it is possible to so completely lose the essence of equity in a curiously entangled mass of red tape, that at least half its worth is thereby destroyed.

I have the honour to remain,

Yours, &c.,

Q.C.

---

## REVIEWS.

**THE MAGISTRATES' MANUAL.** Being annotations on the various Acts relating to the rights, powers and duties of Justices of the Peace ; with a Summary of the Criminal Law. By S. R. Clarke, Barrister-at-Law. Toronto : Hart & Rawlinson. 1878.

In olden days, in Upper Canada, one of the few law books of colonial origin was "Keele's Justice." By degrees this well-known compendium became obsolete by changes in the law, and in 1865 Mr. McNab, the County Attorney for the County of York, published his "Magistrates' Manual," and for years this was the *vade mecum* of those who administered "home-spun justice" in this Province. It was but little else, however, than a collection of statutes or statutory enactments, arranged under appropriate heads, with a number of forms. The volume before us is somewhat less in bulk, but is more ambitious, and an improvement in various ways upon its predecessors. At the present time the criminal law of Canada (and this book does not embrace the local laws of any Province) and the Acts respecting the duties of magistrates are in a comparatively compact shape, so that much of an author's work is done to his hand. But Mr. Clarke has, theoretically at least, made the subject his own by his research in preparing his edition of the "Criminal Laws of Canada," published a few years since, and has thus been enabled to give to the "Justices" of the Dominion much valuable information in a convenient compass. The Acts relating to the Criminal Law are not given in full, but referred to in appropriate places. The Acts regulating the duties of justices in respect of various matters are given *in extenso*, with reference to decided cases, together with a summary of the Criminal Law of Canada, alphabetically arranged.

---

**DIGEST OF ONTARIO REPORTS.** By C. Robinson, Q.C., and F. J. Joseph, Barrister.

Part XIII. contains, amongst others, the important titles of Pleading at Law ; Pleading in Equity ; Practice at Law ; and Practice in Equity. The heaviest part of the work is now done, and a few more numbers will complete the Digest. We may well add that when it is done the compilers will have no need to be ashamed of their handy work.