

## REVIEWS.

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**THE MUNICIPAL MANUAL.** Containing the Municipal and Assessment Acts and Rules of Court, for the Trial of Contested Municipal Elections, with Notes of all decided cases, etc. By ROBERT A. HARRISON, Esq., B.C.L., Q.C. Third edition. Toronto: Copp, Clark & Co., 1874. p.p. 871.

In the year 1858 Mr. Harrison successfully launched his first *Municipal Manual*. In 1867, nine years afterwards, a second edition appeared, which was even more successful than the first. The innumerable changes made by the Legislature, from time to time, were consolidated in the Act of 1873, and this Act is the text taken by Mr. Harrison for his third edition. In every respect the last is the most complete and satisfactory work of the three. Few men at the Bar, if any, have as great a familiarity with municipal law as the editor of this manual. That thorough knowledge of the subject, combined with his untiring industry and application, has enabled Mr. Harrison to produce a work which is invaluable, not only to those concerned in the management of our municipal affairs, but also to the Bench and Bar, who have to interpret and carry out the laws affecting them.

The preface to the third edition speaks feelingly of the endless alterations in the law: "If the Legislature of Ontario could be induced, for a few sessions, to refrain from mangling the Acts so that their provisions would become more generally and better understood, it would be to the public advantage." Few will object to these observations: the truth of them is too patent, and the same thing has even been remarked by the Bench.

The necessities and peculiarities of this country are naturally akin and in a great measure similar to those of the great Anglo Saxon offshoot lying to the south of us, and in many branches of law we have derived great assistance from the labors of those many learned men who have illustrated and discussed the subjects they treat of in the light both of English and American decisions. As text-writers the American jurists have been eminently successful, their mode of treatment being generally marked by great

research and thoroughness. Amongst the number may be classed Hon. Mr. Dillon, a judge of one of the Circuit Courts of the United States. He recently published a work on Municipal Law, which is a standard authority on that subject in the United States, and has also been found of great assistance to those lawyers in this country who have had occasion to refer to it. We notice that Mr. Harrison has (with the author's special permission) borrowed largely from this "mine of municipal wealth." So that, practically, all that is to be found there of use to us in this country, is reproduced in its appropriate place in Mr. Harrison's manual.

In another branch of law which has lately been prominently before the public—the trial of election petitions—we have the benefit of the editor's experience in the notes to the sections of the Municipal Act relating to contested elections. The similarity of the main provisions in this Act to those of the Provincial, Dominion, and Imperial Statutes, enables one who is familiar with the principles which underlie the decisions, to give the greatest assistance to those who are interested in the trial of contested Municipal elections. Mr. Harrison has in this respect also added greatly to the value of his manual.

Another very important subject, which has also received Mr. Harrison's most careful attention, is that of the sale of lands for taxes. The notes on the points under the Statutes in that behalf are very full and complete.

The manual is so well known from the two previous editions, that the mere announcement of its publication will procure a ready sale. It is pleasing to come across a law-book, written in this country by a member of our Bar, that may be *financially* a success. Generally "virtue is its own reward," but the subjects which have been selected by Mr. Harrison to examine and illustrate, have been handled by him in such a practical and satisfactory way, that there is reason to hope that he has, to some extent at least, escaped the usual fate of those venturesome and public-spirited individuals who have, like himself, either as legal journalists, text writers, or annotators, endeavored to supply the want felt by their brethren, at great labor to themselves,