

a judgment upon it. The Code Napoléon itself, ever since it was passed, had given rise to a large number of treatises, and when he looked at the decisions of the Courts of France he was not certain that the code, although it was an admirable work, completely facilitated everybody in understanding the law as people seemed to suppose would be the natural result of codification. Human language required exposition, because no language was so perfect as to give every shade of meaning; and when they put a thing into the iron framework of definition, they had immediately the foundation of various controversies as to what the exact meaning of each word was. The virtue, and, he believed, the great value, of the English law had been that, instead of putting everything in an iron framework of definition, they had had the principle established of what was called the common law, and among lawyers there was not much difficulty in saying what was the common law. But there was a great difficulty in saying sometimes what was the meaning of the statute law, and that was partly due, no doubt, to the mode in which the statute was manufactured. Something was brought in, and somebody suggested an amendment, and in order to save the bill from wreck the amendment was accepted without reference to the framework of the statute, with the result that when it had to be construed by the judges it was not always absolutely satisfactory. In addition to the law as to bills of exchange they had also codified the law as to arbitration, and they were now actually employed in the codification of the law as to the insurance of shipping, which was an important part of the commercial law, and they hoped to proceed with it as fast as they could. But, as he had said, it was only by proceeding in a small way, and with an unpretentious project, that anything real could be done. It was desirable that the law should be simple, and that commercial men should be able to understand it and apply it to their business transactions, and, so far as he was concerned as the holder of his present office, he would do all he could to aid that good work.

GENERAL NOTES.

THE BAR OF CHICAGO.—A late number of the *Chicago Legal News* gives biographical sketches, accompanied by portraits, of eleven "coloured" members of the Chicago Bar, one of them a woman.