

influence of national character and historical environments on the development of the common law." We regret that want of space prevents us giving this most interesting address in full; but it may be found in the *Green Bag* of last month. We quote however, some of the closing words of Mr. Bryce:—

"The life of every nation rests mainly on what may be called its fixed ideas, those ideas which have become axioms in the mind of every citizen. Now it was mainly by the common law that these fixed and fundamental ideas were moulded whereon the constitutional freedom of America, as of England, rests. One hundred and thirty-one years have now passed since the majestic current of the common law became divided into two streams which have ever since flowed in distinct channels. Many statutes have been enacted in England since 1776 and many more enacted here, but the broad character of the common law remains essentially the same and it forms the same mental habits in those who study and practice it. In nothing, perhaps, does the substantial identity of the two branches of the old stock appear so much as in the doctrine and practice of the law. It is a bond of sympathy, not least because it is a source of common pride. The law of a nation is not only an expression of its character, but a main factor in its greatness. What the bony skeleton is to the body, what her steel ribs are to a ship, that to a state is its law, holding all the parts fitly joined together so that each may retain its proper functions. The common law has done this for you and for us in such wise as to have helped form the mind and habits of the individual citizens as well as of the whole nation. It is all their own. They can remould it if they will. Where a system of law has been made by the people and for the people, where it conforms to their sentiments and breathes their spirit, it deserves and receives the confidence of the people. So may it ever be both in America and in England."