

The volume contains about 650 pages, in addition to the index, which is very full and very carefully prepared.

Dealing with the general scope of the work, it may be useful to point out that heretofore the editor or compiler of this class of legal publications has confined himself to one or two things, first, an encyclopædia, which is more or less an enlarged digest of case law, but which was somewhat more extended in the American and English Encyclopædia, or, secondly, to a list of leading cases annotated. While these methods render reference comparatively easy, they fall short of being a complete compendium of the law of the country to which they relate. The present work opens up a wider field, and consists of a series of carefully written articles upon practically every subject known to the law, and combines all the benefits to be derived from textbooks, encyclopædias, and digests of case law. Instead of being a mere collection of references, the text deals with principles, collected from the authorities, and, for ordinary purposes, gives in a compact form all the law relating to any matter likely to arise in the course of one's practice. In other words the work is a comprehensive codification of principles of the English law.

The difficulty heretofore met with in works of this nature has been that the results of the decisions of courts have been stated, rather than the principles upon which such decisions are based, and it is often found on reading the report referred to, that the case turned largely on the facts, and thus in no way aided the enquiry as to the law applicable to facts more or less different. Here, however, the general principles governing all facts are succinctly and clearly stated, and special distinction is made where exceptions arise or certain facts have to be considered.

To illustrate this more clearly, a paragraph may be taken at random from any page of the first volume, say, the head of "Agency,"—a title dealt with in about one hundred pages. At page 212, there will be found the following:—

"Wherever a principal has authorized an agent to do 'a particular class of acts on his behalf, he is responsible' for any act even though felonious (*Osborn v. Gullett* (1873) L.R. 8