

REVIEWS—FLOTSAM AND JETSAM.

"The INDEX TO IMPERIAL STATUTES comprises such only as having been passed with express reference to Canada, or any of the Provinces now composing it, or to the colonies generally, appear to have been wholly or partly in force or unrepealed at the end of the Session of the Parliament of the United Kingdom held in the year 1873, the date to which the table and *Index to the Statutes of Canada* are brought down."

The very name of the author is enough to inspire confidence, he being the son of our old friend, the invaluable and courteous Law Clerk of the House, who in 1856-7, as Law Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Canada, prepared the Index of the Statutes which bears his name.

The Index before us is prepared as well for the use of members of the Legislature as for the Legal profession, and the necessary consequence is an arrangement of the alphabetical Index which, though novel, is ingeniously devised to give all necessary information to the progressive legislator, whilst at the same time doing as little injury as possible to its convenience as a guide to the practical lawyer.

It is impossible to estimate the comfort these time-saving machines are to the profession. For this reason, if for no other, we trust that both Mr. Wicksteed and Mr. Ewart will, as they ought to, reap a substantial harvest from their labours.

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A Bill has been introduced in the Virginia Senate (which is the case every session), to repeal the law providing for the punishment of citizens of the commonwealth by stripes.

The House Committee of the U. S. Senate have before them the impeachment cases of four Judges: Durell of Louisiana, Busted of Alabama, Story of Arkansas, and Duvall of Texas.

Lord St. Leonards, the only ex-Chancellor who held successively the Lord Chancellorship of Ireland and England, has reached his ninety-fourth year. He is still in the full possession of his faculties.

In a case before the Master of the Rolls, lately, Mr. Bagshawe, Q.C., referred to a licensed victualler, who had been called as a witness, as "this gentleman." "How long is it since publicans have gained the title of 'gentleman?'" asked his Honour; "since the last general election, I suppose!"

A conversation at the York Assizes—Junior Counsel (cross-examining a polite and venerable witness). "Come, now, was the carpet on the room old or new?" Polite and venerable witness—"Quite new, Sir." J. C. "Come, now, how do you know that?" P. and V. W. "Because it was bright and fresh-looking—like you, Sir!" (Jury giggle—Judge wrestles with a smile—Spectators roar—and Junior Counsel wishes he had gone into a bank.)

One can hardly appreciate the "mixed emotions" with which the counsel in a certain important case listened to the following dialogue, between the Judge and Foreman of the Jury, at the close of the Judge's charge:—

Judge—"Is there any point on which the the Jury would like further explanation?"

Foreman—"There are two terms of law that have been a good deal used during this trial that I should like to know the meaning of—they are *plaintiff* and *defendant*."

It is not long since we listened to a conversation equally refreshing. A patient and careful Judge, having laboured for half-an-hour to explain a difficult contract to the jury, asks: "Now, if I were to send you to your room, do you think you would understand the matters you have to decide?"

Foreman (promptly)—"We think *not*, my Lord!"

Counsel will take singularly different views of the virtues of witnesses. Dr. Kenealy, with his command of high-sounding epithets, speaks of Bogle, the old Tichborne retainer, as—"one of those negroes described in Paul and Virginia, a man from whose countenance the light of truth beamed." Mr. Hawkins is blind to the 'beams of truth,' and calls this interesting African a "murky satellite." Miss Braine, the governess, who was positive that the defendant, whom she compassionately visited in sickness, is the Sir Roger whom she saw once in 1850, appeared to Dr. Kenealy in the light of a "ministering angel." "If Miss Braine be a ministering angel," exclaims Mr. Hawkins, "God preserve me from ministering angels! If I was to give her a character, I should say that she was all that is execrable and hateful." Captain Brown, whose otherwise spotless reputation is somewhat tarnished by his affectionate recognition of Jean Luie as an old comrade of the Osprey, is from the defendant's point of view "the gallant Captain Brown of the Brazilian Navy." Mr. Hawkins prefers to describe him as "the perjured proprietor of a pudding shop."