

TENURES AND CUSTOMS.

well in the arrangement of the cases as in typographical execution. Mr. Fisher's digest, as is well known, was founded on that prepared by the late County Judge of the County of York, Hon. S. B. Harrison, whose arrangement was doubtless the best that has as yet been published. Mr. Brunker also followed the same plan in Ireland.

In conclusion it may well be said that, so far as the first part of the book is concerned, the work which has been done has been done in a manner worthy of the high reputation of the Senior Editor, and which shows on the part of his co-worker, Mr. F. J. Joseph, great capacity for the scientific arrangement of cases, as well as the greatest accuracy, industry, and application.

We shall again have occasion to refer to this work, when it appears in the shape of a complete volume.

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A new edition of Blount's "Tenures of Land and Customs of Manors," rearranged, corrected and considerably enlarged by W. Carew Hazlitt, has lately appeared. In it the legal lover of antiquarian lore may find much to amuse and interest, as well as to instruct and edify; and from the quaint and apparently frivolous tenures of medieval days, much that will explain and illustrate various points of social and economic history may be extracted. The rents paid, or rendered in those good old days of yore, show that neither the King nor the great lords had much to give their faithful followers save land; that land was of comparatively small value, that it was given away with lavish bounty in payment of every kind of service—military, menial or ceremonial, and that usually the rents bore no relation to the fertility of the soil, or its nearness to market.

Some of the rents and services for

which lands were held, mentioned by Blount are—taking charge of the King's table-cloths on coronation day; finding a spit of maple to roast the King's meat on that day; providing straw for his Majesty's bed, and grass and rushes for his chamber, whenever he chanced to come to Aylesbury; training a hare dog for the King; keeping a white bitch with red ears for the King; carrying the royal horn when his Majesty hunted within the hundred of Lambourne; scalding the King's hogs; keeping the King's lame dog; and, *O pudor! O tempora! O mores!* "keeping for the King six damsels, to-wit, w—o—s, at the cost of the King;" carving for the Earl of Lancaster at dinner on Christmas Day; paying to the Lord of the Manor a snowball at Midsummer, and a red rose on Christmas Day; driving a goose three times round the fire on New Year's-day, while the lord blows the fire. A supply of herring-pies were paid to the King for the Manor of Carlton, in Norfolk. The Manor of Downhall was held by a service of holding the King's stirrup when he mounted his horse at Cambridge Castle. The Lords Grey of Wilton held the Manor of Acton by the serjeanty of keeping one ger-falcon for the King. In the time of Henry III., one Robert Aquillan held a carucate of land by the service of making one mess in an earthen pot in the King's kitchen on the day of his coronation. Henry de Greene held lands of the King, *in capite*, by the service of lifting up his right hand yearly on Christmas Day towards the King whenever he should be in England; and William Hunt held lands of the Earl of Lincoln, free from all services and demands except one rose in the time of roses.

Among the customs which have prevailed in the various Manors, many are most curious, fanciful and grotesque. In Rochford, in the County of Essex, at