

which is no more possible of attainment by any short-hand process, than is strength or wisdom or power in the individual man. All things come and go, or abide in one stay, only by the appointment of the omnipotent power and wisdom of Him, who ruleth in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth as seemeth Him good; with whom a thousand years are as one day, and one day as a thousand years. But with man everything lies in mere experiment; is merely tentative, except as it is confirmed by the procession of events, and can only be fully established by the advancing ages of the world, we might almost say, of eternity itself.

It may be proper to say that the letter was written at the request of the person to whom it was addressed, in June, 1870.

I have ventured to give a brief outline of the history and success of Legal Reform in the United States.

The earliest attempt at codification in the United States was made by the legislature of the State of Louisiana, in the year 1822, by the appointment of Edward Livingston and two others, to prepare a civil code for the State, to embrace all laws then in force, including the law merchant and a code of practice. Their report, under the title of "The Civil Code of the State of Louisiana," was adopted and promulgated by the legislature in the year 1824. The legislature resolved that thereupon all former laws should cease to have operation "in every case for which it has been specially provided in this code." It would therefore seem that the old law was still in force in all cases not specially provided for by the new code. This code is drawn largely from Toullier's "Le Droit Civil Français" and the Code Napoleon, as these were from the Code of Justinian and the commentaries upon the Roman Civil Law.

This is the only attempt at the codification of the entire civil law of a State, which has met with such acceptance as to be adopted by the legislature. And I believe the adoption of this code by the State of Louisiana is largely attributable to the fact, that the State was chiefly settled by Spanish and French emigrants, who had always been accustomed to that mode of legislation, and to the further fact that a species of code already existed in the State.

The legislature of this State in 1822 also appointed Mr. Livingston to prepare a code of criminal law, embracing procedure and evidence. This latter code was prepared by the dis-