

## CURIE CANADENSES.

ing lawyers of thirty years ago, with little bits of gossip and anecdote, which though slight and common-place to the men of the day to which they relate, are so wonderfully interesting to their successors, will be, as we were, disappointed. In truth the interest of the work does not flow from its literary merit. It bears no resemblance to the famous *Rolliad*, from which Lord Campbell draws so many illustrations in his "Lives." Instead of this we have a catalogue of law courts and law officers, as matter of fact as the list of ships in the *Iliad*. The book is strictly what it professes to be, a description of "the several Courts of Law which have been erected from time to time in the Canadas, with copious notes, explanatory and historical, and an appendix of much useful matter." The notes and appendix are copious, and bear about the same proportion to the text as the notes in "Walkem on Conveyancing," bear to the original work. They contain, as the title promises, much useful information as to the judicial districts into which the Canadas were divided in 1843 (they were much more numerous in Upper Canada then than now), the various courts, the Acts by which they were constituted, their jurisdiction, their judges, and so forth. The book was published when public indignation on account of the "Rebellion" had not subsided, and when the same feeling prevailed in Toronto as when Charles Dickens visited the city and found the people "red-hot Tories." We are of course treated to an account of the rebellion, enlivened with a great many expressions of pious horror at the fiendish conduct of the "conspirators." Our author, though an English barrister, and but a short time resident in the country, was strongly tinged with Canadian conservatism. We are proud to find that the law did its duty nobly in the trying emergencies of the time. In one place our author tells us :

"Sir Francis Bond Head immediately (i. e. on being apprised of the approach of the rebels) repaired to the City Hall, at the Market Square, where four thousand stand of arms and accoutrements were deposited. One of the first persons he met there was the Chief Justice Robinson, with a musket on his shoulder. He immediately ordered the arms to be unpacked and the alarm bell rung. Speedily he was joined by a whole host of gallant fellows, who were soon armed and provided with ammunition. They manned the windows of the City Hall and those of the houses opposite. Then the Lieutenant-Governor, having stationed one of his *aides-de-camp*, the Hon. Mr. Justice Jones, with a picket of thirty men near the rebel post on Yonge Street, tranquilly waited for the morning."

We have no doubt the members of the bar eagerly followed the example so gallantly set by their judges. Lawyers, we make bold to say, are not excelled in loyalty by any class, and are never slow in the country's need to exchange their briefs for fire-arms. Every lawyer must recall with pride the gallantry displayed by our English forefathers when Buonaparte was threatening the shores of England. It was then the corps of volunteers, to which the epithet "Devil's Own" was first flatteringly applied, was formed in the Inns of Court, and it included in its ranks some of the most illustrious advocates that ever lived. It did not always follow that the finest legal talents were accompanied by equal military genius, for Mr. Law (Lord Ellenborough) was looked upon by drill-instructors as an incorrigible blockhead.

It would be unfair to omit the thrilling description which Plinius Secundus gives of the uprising of '37; though perhaps it was more appreciated by his contemporaries than it will be to-day.

"ANON MACKENZIE'S maddening zeal,  
With fires, such as false patriots feel,  
Unsheathes the steel and gives the word  
To raise the fratricidal sword.  
Colleague'd with him stern PAPINEAU  
Contrives the simultaneous blow.  
They shrink not, till with flame unblest,  
Fiercely blaze out both east and west ;