

be little doubt that as a matter of practice these words are now frequently omitted by the judges of the Scottish Courts in administering the oath. But, however that may be, section 5 seems to have made them part of the form when used in England, and in many quarters they constitute a strong objection to the Scottish oath. For instance, Judge Snagge the other day said that he should not like to hear the witnesses in his Court at Northampton using that form of imprecation. Hence it is all the more necessary, pending a settlement by legislation, to insist upon the view that "kissing the book," is not an essential part even of the ceremony of taking the oath according to the English form.—*Law Journal*.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR ON THE CODIFICATION OF COMMERCIAL LAW.

The Lord Chancellor, in the course of a speech, May 5, at the annual meeting of the City and Guilds of London Institute, said that the codification of the law was a subject with which he was tolerably familiar. The first observation he would make about it was that codification did not depend upon the lawyers; it depended upon the legislative machine, and their legislative machine was at present not one that did its work with great facility and great speed. There was some difficulty in getting any law passed, and if they began to codify the law, even in its commercial aspects, he was afraid that the process would last some time. What had been done already had been done with great diligence certainly and with good effect. The law of bills of exchange, for instance, scattered as it was, had been now reduced to a code, and there was a Bills of Exchange Act which contained within its four corners the law applicable to the subject. Other branches, for instance partnership law, have also been codified. They had also a law which he thought he might claim some credit for—the law of interpretation, which interpreted certain words and gave legal effect to them. This was perhaps only a modest programme, but it was only by doing things in a modest way and in small bits that it could be done at all. He entertained some doubt about the complete success of the German code if it comprehended the whole commercial law of Germany, but he had not yet seen it, and could not pronounce