

REVIEWS.

of this reign in his abridgment." (Hale's Common Law, 175.) Before the publication of these cases Bellewe published a work known as the "Cases Petit Brooke, temp. Henry VIII." "Bellewe's cases" is simply a collection of cases from old abridgments. The conclusion to his preface is as follows: "And as your good liking of my labour bestowed in the said collection of Brookes' newe cases did not a little prevaile with me in the publishing hereof; so if I shall perceive that these yerres of R. 2 do finde y^e like favour at your handes, It may encourage me to set the Printer on worke for all such other olde yerres of other kings as lie scattered in the said abridgements, and which I haue in a readiness at present. And so wishing vnto you all increase of learning, vertue and happines, I take my leave the 10 of Januarie, 1585." Mr. Wallace, in his work on the Reporters, says, "Whatever favor or whatever want of it the second publication may have found at the readers' hands, no other collection that I know of by Bellewe ever appeared in print." The number of copies which he published is not known, but Mr. Wallace says, "Bellewe's Cases T. Richard II. is very rare. Mr. Green, whose collection of reporters is complete, has a copy, the only one I ever saw, except the copy that I have myself."

The numerous enquiries for "Bellewe's Cases," and the exorbitant price which copies realized, led Messrs. Stevens & Haynes to believe that a reprint would be acceptable to the legal profession and to librarians who desire to possess a complete and perfect series of the English Law Reports. With characteristic energy they carried out the undertaking. The result is a *fac-simile* of Bellewe—old black letter type, &c. The *Law Times* has described it as "one of the most intelligible and interesting legal memorials of the middle ages." In this we readily concur. We are in delight with the book. It is such a charming specimen of antique printing as to be really a wonder. If Bellewe were to arise from his grave and shake off the dust of centuries, he would most assuredly, when looking at a copy of this reprint, come to the conclusion that in all things save spelling, paper and printing the world is progressive. Indeed, it would puzzle him to tell the difference between the copy which he had

"imprinted at London, by Robert Robinson, dwelling at Fewter Lane, neere Holborne," in the year 1585, from the copy published by "Stevens & Haynes, Bell Yard, Temple Bar, London, 1869."

No public library in the world, where English law finds a place, should be without a copy of this edition of Bellewe. The price is comparatively high, but no higher than sufficient to cover the great expense incurred in publishing a small edition of this old collection of cases. We hope that the enterprising law publishers will not be pecuniary sufferers in this or any similar venture which partakes of a national character, and especially when their publications are said to be far superior to any of the works of a similar class recently published at the expense of the nation under the auspices of the Master of the Rolls.

THE PRACTICE OF THE HIGH COURT OF CHANCERY, with the Nature of the several Offices belonging to that Court, and the Reports of many Cases wherein Relief hath been there had and where denied, and known as "Choyce Cases in Chancery." Reprinted from the edition of 1672. London: Stevens & Haynes, Bell Yard, Temple Bar, 1870. In 8vo., £2 2s., calf antique.

Messrs. Stevens & Haynes were so far encouraged by the success which attended their publication in 1869 of the rare book known as "Bellewe's Cases temp. Richard II." that they brought out a reprint of a still more rare volume, known as "Choyce Cases in Chancery," temp. Mary, Elizabeth and James I.

Mr. Wallace, in his valuable work on Reports, published in 1855, said, "As the volume is quite rare, so rare indeed that except the copies in Temple Library and the Library of Lincoln's Inn, I have never seen more than one copy of it anywhere," and then, for the benefit of his readers, extracted and published some of the cases.

There are no less than 250 cases in the volume, the greater part of which bear date from 1576 to 1583 (19 to 26 Elizabeth). There is one case of 1 Elizabeth. There are a few cases from 1603 to 1605. (1 to 3 Jas. I.) and several of 5 and 6 Philip and Mary.