

usually the forger will be found to have failed to entirely cover the original tracings, the character of which, by the aid of a low power, can usually be satisfactorily made out. In this case, also, the signature will usually be found to be discontinuous, and the places where the pen has been put upon and removed from the paper, in endeavoring to cover up the original tracings, can be readily made out, and when thus made out this fact is strong, if not conclusive, evidence of fraud. When the signature has not been traced, but is composite, or made by piece meal, in the manner above described, this can almost always be satisfactorily made out by the use of a low power, and when this composite character is so made out, it is likewise strong, if not conclusive, evidence of fraud. Not unfrequently, by the aid of the microscope, it can be determined that alterations of the instrument were made with a different pen and with different ink; and, not unfrequently, the order in point of time in which they were made can likewise be determined. In questions of this sort, and in general in cases of disputed signatures, photography is of very great service. In the comparison of disputed signatures, the writing in question should, if possible, be compared with the original and not with a photographic copy, such copy being considered by most courts as secondary evidence; nevertheless, photographic enlargements of genuine and disputed signatures, the correctness of which is established by testimony, are very useful as a means of illustrating the evidence of the expert. Not unfrequently also, by the aid of photography, differences in ink may be made out which are insensible to ordinary observation. . . .—*American Law Register*.

Reviews and Notices of Books

The Veto Power—Its Origin, Development, and Function, in the Government of the United States. By E. C. Mason, A.B. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1890.

This volume, the first of a series of historical monographs, is issued from the University of Harvard, where the author is Instructor of Political Economy. The origin of the veto power is traced back and is shown to be a remnant of the legislative power once held by the English sovereigns, and in time transferred to the chief executives of the American colonies, and finally included in the Constitution of the United States. The disappearance of the use of the power was gradual, and its exercise by Queen Anne, in the year 1708, is the last instance in English history in which the sovereign has directly refused assent to a bill passed by both Houses of Parliament. The history of the veto power in the Federal and the various state governments is enlarged upon, and interesting statistics of the bills vetoed, and the Presidents who exercised the power, are given. The many constitutional points and features involved are dwelt upon at length, but in such a way as to concentrate the interest of the reader.