striking clearness, how familiar legal principles and institutions are traced in widely varying and distant communities.

Mr. Harrison, then, goes on to point out that historical enquiry into law must in nowise be considered as a substantial part of Jurisprudence. Jurisprudence, as has been seen, is concerned with the symmetrical classification of law as it is. Indeed the study of the history of law even has its dangers for the student, who aims at being a practical lawyer. The historical student is concerned with the continuity of law, the practical lawyer with the solidarity of law, that is, with law as it is at any one time. Law as it is in 41 and 42 Vict. The great lesson of Roman Law is the wonderful symmetrical whole which ultimately issued from out of the ancient anomalies. Hence it is best for the student to be first master of the Institutes of Justinian before he dives into the history of prior Roman Law.

Much of the history of Roman Law is almost worthless from the point of view of Jurisprudence,—where useful it is only useful as a method of explanation. Moreover, to study the history of law it must be divided into detached titles; the history of each being studied as a separate subject. The result to the overburdened memory is a series of anachronisms; and many a student well up in the history of Roman Law could in nowise give a connected view of the state of it as a whole at any one time.

Englishmen, says the writer, have great advantages in regard to Jurisprudence.

In the first place they are brought, in their vast empire, into contact with many varying systems of law, especially in India, pregnant with means of historical explanation. This advantage, however, they share with others, for the study of these institutions is open to all men. They have, however, a special advantage of a practical nature. They are forced to accommodate their laws to the wants of the different peoples embraced in their empire. They have to simplify English Law, to clear it from archaisms and anomalies, and to codify it, and place it in a shape fit to be administered by men who are rather political officers than actual lawyers. In doing this—in developing their *jus gentium*—they have a task which the Romans were relieved from. The Romans always had their law in a more or less tabular and codified form. But English jurists have, from the vast materials open to them, to collect and codify. Much has already been done. English Law is approaching the most important epoch in its brilliant career. And just as the Romans at length thought that in their *jus gentium* they had discovered the Law of Nature, so Englishmen may find that in their codes for India and Jamaica, and certain other colonies, they have discovered the road to a more scientific and convenient method of dealing with English Law itself.

F. L.

SELECTIONS.

THE LAW OF EVIDENCE AND THE SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION OF HANDWRITING.

The magnitude of the interests involved in the use of written documents can hardly be overestimated, hence the necessity that they should be guarded as far as possible against falsification or fraudulent alteration. A mere enumeration of the many ways in which they enter into the complex relations of modern society would fill volumes, and would require years of study, ranging over the entire history of civilization to record. The preservation of property, character and life itself even, frequently depends upon the integrity of a few words re-