

TRANSLATORS' NOTE.

The translators feel that there is little need of words of theirs to commend to students of Roman law any portion of the work of Professor Paul Frédéric Girard in that field. The present little volume is a translation of the preliminary chapter and the first book of his *Manuel élémentaire de droit romain*. The merits and the popularity of the *Manuel* are such that, though first published as recently as 1895, it has already passed through several editions; and the esteem in which M. Girard is held upon the continent of Europe, where naturally Roman law is studied more profoundly than in Great Britain or on this continent, is indicated by the fact that in 1903 the University of Heidelberg conferred upon him the high distinction of the degree of *Doctor utriusque juris, honoris causâ*.

Besides his *Manuel*, and besides numerous learned articles in various periodicals, M. Girard is the author of other well-known works upon Roman law; and the translators may refer especially to his "*Études historiques sur la formation du système de la garantie d'éviction en droit romain*," his French translation of Mommsen's great work on Roman Public law, his *Textes de droit romain*, and his *Histoire de l'organisation judiciaire des Romains*.