

We extract the following paragraphs from Dr. Clark's lecture, which deals with various subjects which the lecturer brought to the attention of his hearers in connection with the Common Law, the happy heritage of the Anglo-Saxon race and its transplanting to Virginia and thence to Canada. He says:—

"It is an interesting question why the 'Laws of Virginia' were chosen rather than those of any part of New England, and rather than those of Old England. Harvard University was founded in 1635, although its charter was not issued until some years later. Eastern Canada, even in those early times, had constant communication with Boston, which was in 1721 a flourishing town. We may therefore ask why the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts were not chosen? We may also pertinently ask by what merciful Providence Canada has so far escaped the Blue Laws of Connecticut?

"A writer of that time said that 'Pennsylvania did not need either the tongue of the lawyer or the pen of the physician, both being equally destructive of men's estates and lives.' This makes it plain why the laws of Pennsylvania were not chosen.

"One of the reasons why the 'Laws of Virginia' were chosen is undoubtedly the fact, stated by Mr. Bruce, one of its historians, that 'Virginia was the foremost and most powerful of all the English dependencies of that day, and the one which adopted the English principles and ideals most thoroughly.'

"Sir Humphrey Gilbert was granted by Letters Patent, certain rights to lands which he would colonize. He is the founder of our oldest Colony, Newfoundland, but perished on the way back, cheering his comrades by reminding them that they were as near heaven on sea as on land. His half-brother, Sir Walter Raleigh, carried on his great work, and in 1584 obtained a grant of the lands which he should discover and colonize.

"In the reign of James, three successive charters were issued, which it is not necessary to discuss in detail. It may, however, be pointed out that many officers of the fleet which defeated the Armada became interested in Virginia. Some of those interested in the development of Virginia were great men, and they laid deep and true the foundations of our Empire, which.