

established, to define and protect individual rights. The jurisprudence under it consisted in the application of general principles to the controversies which are submitted to judicial examination, and not in a comparison of individual cases. Its principles were mainly deduced from the eternal and immutable laws of justice. Originally codified in the twelve tables, it was cultivated by Scaveola, Gallus, Rufus, Offilius, Tubero, Labeo, Sabinus, Longinus, Attilicinus, and a long line of distinguished jurists, of whose decisions a new digest was prepared by Salvius Julianus, in the time of the Emperor Adrian, and then began the golden age of the Roman civil law. This lasted for a hundred years, and comprised most of the great Roman law writers of whom Gaius, Papinian Paulus, Ulpian, and Modestinus deserve especial notice. When the Romans settled in Britain they carried with them their *Jura* and *Instituta*—their laws and customs—but they doubtless borrowed from the Druid laws whatever seemed peculiarly adapted to the circumstances of the people of Britain. When in the fifth century the savage Germanic hordes pressed fiercely upon Rome, she, to meet the crisis, concentrated her strength at home and abandoned her exterior possessions to their fate. Britain for twenty years was a prey to the incursions of the Picts and Scots, and though the Roman law, by its justice and reason commended itself to the sense of the people, yet in a state of anarchy and disorder, its authority declined.

About the time that Britain was abandoned (A. D. 429) the wild Burgundian Vandals, having been converted to Christianity, adopted the Roman laws, and their example was followed by other barbarian tribes, one of which, called the Saxons (in A. D. 449), passed over to Britain, ostensibly to deliver the Britons from their enemies, and began a career of conquest, doubtless taking with them the Roman laws, modified by their Germanic customs. After one hundred and fifty years, they had conquered the greater part of Britain, and formed the Saxon Heptarchy, and in A. D. 828 the Saxon Heptarchy was reduced to a monarchy, under Egbert the Great.

The ancient Britons under Arthur, and other native princes, attempted to stem the tide of foreign conquest, but were unable to drive it back. Of course Romanic-Saxon laws governed nearly all Britain, but in cases not prescribed by these laws, the old Druid or Roman law was often recognized, just as always some portion of the laws and customs of vanquished nations are adopted by their conquerors.

Two hundred and seventy-eight years before the time of Egbert the Great, the whole body of Roman civil law had been once more codified by the great Eastern Roman Emperor Justinian; and it is reasonable to suppose that this had an effect upon those in Britain, who had learned the Roman law from original sources, as well as upon those who had become familiar with it through Saxon authority. During the two hundred years of Saxon monarchy, subsequent to the reign of Egbert, the Danes made fierce incursions into Britain, where they finally established themselves about the time that Edward the Confessor collected and reduced all the different systems that obtained in England to one common law. Then followed the Norman invasion, when William the Conqueror adopted the laws of the country, and afterwards introduced and mingled with them Danish, Mercian and West Saxon laws. Springing from these sources, yet flowing mainly in two distinct streams, legal science in England has been steadily advancing under the Plantagenet, Lancaster, York, Tudor, Stuart, and Brunswick reigning families.

VII. Papers on Physical Geography.

1. ITALY A FIRST CLASS POWER.

The application of Spain, backed by Napoleon, to be admitted as a member of that close corporation known as the first class powers of Europe, was, as our readers are aware, unsuccessful. Another nation is now standing at the door and ready to apply in still louder tones for admission. Victor Emmanuel has accepted the crown of the kingdom of Italy, which thus includes the entire peninsula, except a small district round Rome and the province of Venetia. It will now be worth while to bestow a glance at the new kingdom, its extent, population, resources and industry.

The original Sardinian States, minus Savoy and Nice, contain about 23,100 square miles, with a population of probably four millions and a quarter. The last census was taken in 1857, showing an aggregate population of 5,167,542. It is not likely that there has been much increase since that time, owing to the hostilities carried on last year and the present. Some accessions have come from Venetia; but as many Piedmontese have probably emigrated to the newly acquired states.

The province of Lombardy, annexed last year, has an extent of 8,538 square miles, with a population slightly exceeding three

millions in 1856; at present it can hardly be less than 3,200,000, and may be fifty thousand higher. Add to these the territories acquired on the south side of the Po—Modena, with 2,073 square miles and 604,512 inhabitants in 1857; Parma, with 2,184 square miles and 499,835 inhabitants, and Tuscany with 8,712 square miles and 1,793,967 inhabitants—we have an aggregate, exclusive of the Romagna, of 21,507 square miles, with a population of 6,098,302, or in round numbers at present, 6,250,000.

The two Sicilies, just annexed, have an extent of 41,421 square miles, with a population, in 1856, amounting to 9,117,050. Owing to the tyranny of the government and the losses by war, the increase of the inhabitants must have been inconsiderable, if there has not been an actual decrease. We shall take the figure then returned as the present population.

The Papal States already acquired comprise the legations of Bologna, Ferrara, Forli and Ravenna. Since then, the Marches, comprising that part of the Pope's dominions which is on the eastern slope of the main Apennines; and Umbria, the ancient name of that region between the main and the sub-Apennines, have since declared for annexation to Piedmont. How much further the revolutionary movement will extend is uncertain; but conceding to Victor Emmanuel the central and eastern portions of the Papal States, it would leave the Pope with less than 2,000 square miles of territory, with (say) 400,000 inhabitants, including those in Rome. The annexed portions would thus comprise about 15,000 square miles, containing a population of 2,725,000, according to the census of 1852.—*N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.*

2. REMARKABLE LAKES IN PORTUGAL.

On the top of a ridge of mountains in Portugal, called Estralla, are two lakes of great extent and depth, especially one of them, which is said to be unfathomable. What is chiefly remarkable in them is, that they are calm when the sea is so, and rough when that is stormy. It is, therefore, probable that they have a subterranean communication with the ocean; and this seems to be confirmed by the pieces of ships they throw up, though almost forty miles from the sea. There is another extraordinary lake in that country, which, before a storm, is said to make a frightful rumbling noise, that may be heard at a distance of several miles. And we are also told of a pool or fountain, called Fervencias, about 24 miles from Coimbra, that absorbs not only wood, but the lightest bodies thrown into it, such as cork, straw, feathers, &c., which sink to the bottom and are never seen more. To these we may add a remarkable spring near Estremes, which petrifies wood, or rather encrusts it with a case of stone; but the most remarkable circumstance is that in summer it throws up water enough to turn several mills, and in winter is perfectly dry.

3. EXPLORATIONS IN AFRICA.

Almost day by day the great African mystery, the source of the Nile, is being gradually dissipated. The latest accounts of all shew how nearly the veil is removed from the standing enigma of ages. While Capts. Speke and Burton were trying to work their way to the North, in hopes of discovering the connection of the river with the fresh water lakes that they first explored, a new competitor, Signor Giovanni Miani, of Venice, was employed, unaided and alone, in tracking the southern course of the White Nile beyond the furthest limit yet attained. All exploration had previously stopped at Gondokoro, in N. lat. 4° 30', where immense cataracts put a limit to navigation. Miani, however, was not to be foiled by them. Leaving his boat, he made a circuit round the mountain-chain, and reached the White Nile again after five day's travel, pursued its course through hostile nations and ferocious animals, as far as the second degree of North latitude, till, completely exhausted with fever and the wounds he had received, he was compelled to return at the time when only 270 geographical miles remained to be explored between his position and the most northerly point reached by Capt. Speke. The particulars of his journey, which were full of interest, have just been published by the Geographical Society, under whose auspices a fund is now being raised for the final and complete examination of the district, in which the services of the above named explorer are now to be engaged. A new expedition to Central Africa in search of Dr. Vogel is being prepared in Germany. Committees for the promotion of this undertaking, which promises to become a national one, have been formed in different places in Germany.

4. OCEAN BEACH OF OREGON.

On the ocean beach of Oregon, the surf is continually casting up little rows of variegated stones, prettily rounded by the action of