

REVIEWS—CORRESPONDENCE.

"Look out, you had better keep on your own side of the road," said Jones.

"Never mind; I can go on either side, I'll only have to keep my eye a little wider open to avoid collisions; * besides there is plenty of room for any person to pass, so he would have only himself to blame in case of accidents." †

"A person approaching you might think there was not sufficient space."

"If an accident happens it will be a matter of evidence whether I have left ample room or not; ‡ so you can look about you and see."

"But suppose some fiery steed was to run into yours?" urged Thomas.

"My being on the wrong side would not prevent my recovering against a negligent driver, as long as there is room for him to pass without inconvenience. § Whoa, old fellow," I cried, just as I was on the point of running over a philosopher who was walking slowly over a crossing gazing up at the azure vault of heaven. "What a stupid donkey; it is as much his business to be watchful and cautious that he does not get under my sleigh, as it is mine that my sleigh does not get over him!"

The author's plan, it will be seen, is autobiographic. The accidents incident to travel are represented as happening to the writer or his wife, or as coming under their observation. The difficulty of this plan is that the reader's interest in the heroes is apt to weaken his attention to the instruction which it is the object of the book to convey. This danger the author has carefully avoided. We are glad to find copious references to American decisions, which on this branch of the law are of great value, owing to the physical similarity of the two countries. The professional reader might perhaps prefer a treatise written in the plan usually considered in keeping with the grave dignity of the law; it would no doubt ensure a more scientific treatment of the subject. But—shall we say fortunately?—we are not all of the opinion of the famous scholar who thought that "life would be endurable were it not for its amusements," nor are we all as enthusiastic as the learned serjeant who refused to speak of contingent remainders lest he should be tempted to indulge in too long

a disquisition on that fascinating theme. We feel sure that lawyers at any rate will be glad to have the bitter pill of the law disguised with sweets of any sort, and to be spared the wry faces which it would be too likely to produce when administered in a less attractive form.

We have only to notice one defect which is unfortunately not uncommon in the books of a legal character which originate with our native lawyers; we mean a want of attention to accuracy of expression. In a book of this kind, it is perhaps less important than in a law book pure and simple; but it will be well when our legal writers become convinced that careful English does not detract from the general merits of a legal work.

The name of the author is not given to the public, but we guarantee his law, so far as such a rash thing can be done. The book itself bears internal evidence of his being most industrious. We wish his somewhat novel publication every success.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Fusion—Reforms in the Court of Chancery.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE LAW JOURNAL.

SIR,—It is now two years since the "Act for the better administration of justice in Ontario" became law. This Act was, on the whole, received by the profession in good part, and an earnest desire was felt that it should carry out the intention for which it was passed. It was too crude in its terms to effect a complete change, but it may be considered as only a "trial act," and probably it was better to see how fusion would take before too great alterations were made. It has long been and still is felt that the administration of justice is too unwieldy and complicated, and that forms and ceremonies are thrown around it which accompany no other profession and no other business. The tendency of the age is to render everything as easy and expeditious as possible, and at the same time inexpensive.

I will endeavour to point out in this and subsequent letters that some changes

* *Pluckwell v. Wilson*, 5 C. & P., 375.

† *Chaplin v. Hawes*, 3 C. & P., 554.

‡ *Wordsworth v. Willan*, 5 Esp., 273.

§ *Clay v. Wood*, 5 Esp., 44.