

explains, this provision was desirable in view of the object of the measure, which, as the Minister of Justice said, in 1889, in introducing it, was "to render uniform in almost every particular the laws throughout the Dominion with respect to these contracts." Without this provision unprovided cases would be governed by differing rules of construction in the various Provinces, and the uniformity sought for unattainable.

Mr. Maclaren has certainly done his work well and thoroughly, and has given the profession an accurate exposition, as well as a most readable volume. His style is easy and simple, and his views clearly expressed in scholarly language.

We have, in his introduction and a chapter on former legislation in Canada and the Provinces, a very interesting sketch of the history of the law merchant as to negotiable instruments from the earliest period down to the present time, and its development into the shape it now takes. He shows also the position of the various Provinces of the Dominion in relation to the law on that subject, and to the outcome of that law in the modern system of business and banking as covered by the words bills, notes, and cheques.

As to the construction of the book, Mr. Maclaren gives, first, the section of the act, then such remarks as he considers appropriate, and then "illustrations" from decided cases, grouping them with much care and judgment, and giving a bird's-eye view of the subject treated of.

So far we have found nothing to add to the author's "addenda et corrigenda," which, though it has a page to itself, consists only of eight short lines of unimportant matter. We have also a table of cases overruled, questioned, or distinguished, which is very complete and must have been the result of much study and labour.

The work of the publishers is well done, and the printing and paper excellent, though we think it would have been better if more distinction had been made in the types used respectively for the text and the original matter. The index is full and complete. Having before them the result of the labours of Mr. Hodgins, Mr. Smythe, and Mr. Maclaren, the profession cannot now have much excuse for ignorance on the subject of bills, notes, and cheques.

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*Commentaries on the Law of Sales and Collateral Subjects.* By Jeremiah Travis, LL.B., Harv. '66; recently judge of the High Court of Justice of the Canadian Northwest Territories; First Prize Essayist of Harvard University of 1866; author of "A Treatise on Canadian Constitutional Law"; annotator of "Parsons on Partnership," etc. Boston: Little, Brown & Co.; London: Sweet & Maxwell (Ltd.); Toronto: The Carswell Co. (Ltd.), 1892.

This book is a peculiar one, and its author peculiar in his style and form of expression. A reviewer in a contemporary in the United States seems to have been so impressed by the preface as to have given but little attention to the