

PREFATORY NOTE.

In *Wallace on the Reporters* an American Reporter has given us the history of his English predecessors, from the Year Books downwards, in a form which provides not only solid instruction but also excellent reading. Except for lists of reports and an occasional note, Wallace ends with the year 1776, the date of the Declaration of Independence, after which English cases cease to be binding in American courts.* The present compilation includes Reporters from the year 1776 down to the commencement of the Law Reports in 1865. It contains a description of each set of Reports, followed by judicial and other comments upon them, with a short biographical notice on each Reporter and the names of the Judges whose judgments he has reported. The present Part includes House of Lords, Privy Council and Chancery Reports. Biographical notes of the Judges, limited to such particulars as bear upon their legal attainments, are added in an appendix and are followed by an index of Judges, Reporters and Reports contained in the volume. The collection, it is hoped, will be of use to the student in estimating the value of any set of reports as a whole. The experienced practitioner has acquired the necessary information by his own research or by tradition; yet to him, also, a ready means of reference to criticisms on reports may sometimes be useful.

The writer is indebted to several friends and especially to Reporters, past and present, for advice and suggestions. It is upon such advice, where written record is not to be found, that he has ventured to offer a general opinion on the quality of the reports described.

* It is said that the editor's matter in the 4th edition of Wallace (1882) is not always to be relied on. The 3rd edition (1855) is praised by Mr. Justice Vaughan Williams in delivering the Judgment of the court in *Farrall v. Hilditch* (1859), 5 C. B. (N. S.) at p. 855. The present writer is informed on good authority that the book was a favourite of the late Mr. Justice Willes'.