

besecher suld have in hand by ther promys 100 marks in redy money," upon which "promys, gret instaunce and labor," made to him by the defendants, the plaintiff "resorted to the said Elizabeth to his gret costs and charges." And "thorow and desaveabull comforde as weil as of the said Thomas and Robert Morgan as of the said Elizabeth," delivered to her many tokens—namely, "a ryng of gold set with certen stones lyke to a dragone's hede;" "a ryng of gold called a serjeaunt's ryng;" "a crosse of gold with a crucifyx;" "a ryall in gold;" "a nobull in gold;" "thre pomaunders;" "a rebon of sylke;" "a pyncase of cloth of gold;" with other many small tokens to the value of ten marks and more; "and also was at gret costs and charges thorow his manyfold journeys taken in that behalf:" which he estimates at other ten marks. But now the said Thomas and Robert have "by ther crafty and falce meane" caused the said Elizabeth to take to husband one John Maurice, since which time the plain. ff hath many times demanded his said tokens, *with his costs and charges*, as well of the said Robert and Thomas, as of the said Elizabeth, which "they and every of them at all times hath denyed and yit doth deny, contrary to right and good conscience," and therefore he prays a writ, etc.

From the documents above quoted, which are fair specimens of a tolerably numerous class, the action for breach of promise of marriage as we understand it at the present day—that is to say, an action seeking substantial damages as the result of a favorable verdict, appears to have been almost unknown to our ancestors. The specific fulfilment of a contract, formally entered into at the betrothal, might, however, as has been stated, be compelled in certain cases by an appeal to the Ecclesiastical Courts.—*The Antiquary*.

Reviews and Notices of Books.

A Manual on the Taxation of Costs in the High Court of Justice, with chapters on costs in alimony actions, and costs in interpleader proceedings. By Charles Howard Widdifield, of Osgoode Hall, Barrister-at-Law. Toronto: Carswell & Co., 1891.

The author has, in 132 pages, grouped most of the Ontario and many of the English decisions affecting the costs properly allowable on taxation. The work is a digest of the decisions merely, without any reference to the *ratio decidendi*, which would have been impossible in a book of such small compass; but the decisions are succinctly quoted and carefully collated from the reports, and each is given under the various headings applicable to it, facilitating a reference to any point. The chapter on costs in interpleader will be found especially useful, embodying, as it does, all the more important decisions.