

THE JUSTINIAN PANDECTS—THEIR ORIGIN, PROGRESS AND COMPLETION.

PAPER READ BEFORE THE SOCIETY,

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THE subject which it is my intention to bring under your consideration this evening is, as announced in the public notice given by the Society, "THE JUSTINIAN PANDECTS."

As thus foreshadowed, however, the subject assumes so broad and comprehensive a shape, that I hasten to explain that the paper which I am about to read, aims not at any recondite investigation into or learned exposition of the laws themselves, contained in those renowned volumes of legal wisdom, known as the *Corpus Juris Civilis*; my present purpose aspires to nothing beyond giving a brief and succinct historical outline of the origin, progress and completion, of that great legal work as achieved by the Emperor JUSTINIAN in the early part of the 6th Century of the Christian Era.

Myself, but a very humble, though somewhat ardent, votary on the threshold of that vast Temple of Jurisprudence reared by JUSTINIAN, I have little more than contemplated with admiration some of its legal and philosophical splendours; but I was early taught to reverence the laws of the Roman Empire, and to make a knowledge of those laws the foundation of my professional studies.