

class, and to place themselves, when required, at the service of the local authorities.

Attainder, Bills of, like other parliamentary bills, might be introduced in either of the Houses of Parliament. After being passed both by the Lords and the Commons, they had to receive the royal sanction before they could take effect. Their purpose was to "attaint" of high treason political offenders, who might or might not be heard in their own defence. Sir John Fenwick (1697) was the last person condemned by Bill of Attainder. This procedure had to be resorted to, as his wife had conveyed out of the country one of the witnesses against him. A charge of high treason cannot be proved without two witnesses at least.

Banneret: A superior degree of knighthood. This rank might be, and was, conferred on peers; but did not entitle the holder to sit in the House of Lords.

Baronet is a title first conferred by James I., who made it a mere matter of sale and purchase. Anyone who paid into the treasury a sum sufficient to support for three years one hundred soldiers of the army in Ulster was created a baronet. The title is hereditary, but does not confer upon its possessor any special privileges. It need hardly be said that baronetcies are no longer offered for sale.

Benefit of Clergy: Persons in holy orders enjoyed the privilege of being tried by ecclesiastical instead of by secular courts. The privilege was greatly abused, being claimed at length by all who could read a verse of the Psalms "like a clerk." It was found, moreover, that ecclesiastical courts were far too lenient in dealing with ecclesiastical offenders. Henry VII. and Henry VIII. greatly limited the privilege; it was finally abolished under George IV.

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE.

THE Copp Clark Co., Limited, announce for July the new *High School History of England and Canada*, by Arabella B. Buckley (author of "Fairy Land of Science," "Short History of Natural Science," etc.), and W. J. Robertson, B.A., LL.B., Collegiate Institute, St. Catharines. The book is authorized by Education Department for Ontario, and the English and Canadian Histories in one volume will sell for 65 cts.

THE attention of readers is directed to the Copy-books adopted by the Hunter Rose Publishing Company, for use in the schools of Canada.

"POLITICS in fiction" is a long and carefully compiled paper on this interesting subject taken from *Blackwood's* and found in *Littell's Living Age* of May 16th. "Ibsen's Brand," *Westminster Review* and "Carrara," *Cornhill* is each in its way delightful although on such widely different topics. "A Strange Passenger" from *Gentleman's Magazine* and the "Mugaddane of Spins," *Blackwood's*, are the short stories of the issue.

DR. JOHN LE CONTE is the subject of two memorial papers in the June *Overland*; the first of his life by President Kellogg, the second on his work by Prof. Slate.

"THE Manufacture of Wool," the fifth paper in the series, will appear in the June *Popular Science Monthly*. Dr. Andrew White's paper on "Miracles and Medicine" will be concluded, dealing with inoculation, the royal touch, healing relics, etc. An interesting paper on sanitation, entitled "Our Grandfathers died too young," is by Mrs. Plunkett.

THE *Eclectic Magazine* for June contains an article by Edmund Gosse on the "Influence of Democracy on Literature," *Contemporary*; and others on the "Science of Fiction" by the three well-known novelists, Paul Bourget, Walter Besant and Thomas Hardy (*New Review*); "Canada and the United States" is by Erastus Wiman (*Contemporary*). The short stories are "Nissá" (*Blackwood's*), and "The Midnight Baptism" from *Fortnightly Review*.