

EDITORIAL NOTES—NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION.

stead of resting upon an instrument of, perhaps, difficult construction or doubtful validity, starts with an unimpeachable grant from the Crown, following upon an official survey. They, however, are of opinion that it would not be safe to press the analogy between conveyancing in England and conveyancing in the Colonies too far, and state that the universal registration of unimpeachable or absolute titles, which has been found perfectly easy in Australia, would, it is admitted by the strongest advocates of registration in England, be simply impossible.

NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION.

We have received the second volume of the Reports of the above Association, which contains the address delivered by the Hon. Samuel F. Miller, Justice United States Supreme Court, at the opening of the second annual meeting, besides many valuable essays and reports of various committees. The object of the Association, as set forth in its constitution, is "to cultivate the science of Jurisprudence; to promote reform in the Law; to facilitate the administration of Justice; to elevate the standard of integrity, honour, and courtesy in the legal profession; and to cherish a spirit of brotherhood among the members thereof." The constitution provides, amongst other things, for the appointment of a Committee on Grievances which may hear all complaints in writing preferred by any member against any other member for misconduct in his relations to the Association, or in his profession, and also any specific complaint which may be made to them by any member in writing, affecting the interest of the legal profession, the practice of law, or the administration of justice, and may report

thereon to the Association. It also provides for the appointment of Committees on Law Reform, and on Legal Biography, the duty of the latter being to provide for the preservation among the archives of the Association of memorials of the lives and characters of distinguished deceased members of the bar of the State. Mr. Justice Miller, in his opening address, makes many interesting observations as to legislation in the United States, as it affects the administration of justice in the courts. After remarking that for the first fifty or sixty years after establishing their independence, the American people were too much occupied in perfecting their political organization to turn their attention to the organization of the courts, the learned Judge proceeds to show that the first innovations made upon the established order of things affected the period of office and mode of appointment of the Judges. The Americans, considering the life tenure of office by Judges as a device adopted in England to protect the judiciary from the influence of the Crown, deemed that now that the people were themselves the Sovereign, Judges should, like other public servants, be made to feel their accountability to their masters; and in most of the States the fundamental law was altered, and Judges held office for short periods, and were elected by the Legislature. "Of all the depositaries of political power in this country," says Mr. Justice Miller, "from the people, to whom the most extended right of suffrage has been given, to the executive, whose power is under least restraint, the legislative bodies, jointly and singly, are the most unfit to be trusted with appointments to office." The system only afforded fresh opportunity for what is called "log-rolling." "Log-rolling" is a term derived from the practice of the early settlers in clear-