

edition of the work in question recently published by the Selden Society. We are not fond of neologisms as a rule, but we must say that the adjective "baresark," as coined at Mr. Ryder Haggard's mint, seems to most aptly express the state of mind produced in Mr. Maitland by the many proofs he finds of the author of the "Mirror's" persistent trifling with historical facts. Indeed, to judge from the strenuousness of Mr. Maitland's language, neither Baron Munchausen nor Count Cagliostro could hold the palm of mendacity against this ancient commentator upon the common law. Let us quote from his screed: "Our author's hand is free, and he is quite able to do his lying for himself, without any lying from Geoffrey of Monmouth or any other liar. He will not merely invent laws, but he will invent legislators also; for who else has told us of the statutes of Thurmod and Leuthfred? The right to lie he exercises unblushingly. . . . Religion, morality, law, these are for him all one; they are for him law. . . . That he deliberately stated as law what he knew was not law, if by law we mean the settled doctrines of the king's court, will be sufficiently obvious to anyone who knows anything of the plea rolls of the thirteenth century." It is quite obvious that Mr. Maitland's manner here has not that repose which stamps the caste of the dispassionate critic; but, nevertheless, he quite effectually disposes of the "Mirror's" claim to authority, and consigns it forever to the charnel house of defunct impostures.

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The Boston University Law School is to be congratulated upon having secured the services of Mr. Irving Browne as one of its lecturers. Mr. Browne's scholarly ability as an editor and treatise-writer have won for him a distinguished reputation both at home and abroad; while his witty productions in legal verse have a rare charm for those who delight to blend the strong waters of case-law with the nectar of Helicon. The latest honour conferred upon him prompts us to hurl a bit of Horatian philosophy at him, and say:—

"Mediocribus esse poetis

Non homines, non di, non concessere columnæ!"