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"BULLEN AND LEAKE."

At first sight the volume may not appear to be of much value. It contains much that is obsolete—founded as it is upon the Common Law Procedure Act which has long been repealed. Here one may read at length of demurrer and other forms which have passed out of use. But the notes to the precedents are a mine of legal wealth. In them one may really find the common law of England—a common law which has scarcely been encroached upon by statute and with which but few of the many judges who have adorned the English Bench since 1868 have ventured to interfere. One could refer to numerous judgments delivered since that date into which whole passages from Bullen and Leake have been transcribed. The book is freely quoted in court at the present day and has earned for itself the sobriquet of "The Circuit Bible."

THE VALUE OF ACCURATE PLEADING.

The modern judge is but too apt to treat the pleadings in an action with undeserved contempt. I heard one judge only the other day conclude his judgment by saying to the plaintiff's counsel: "What relief are you asking for? I have not looked at the pleadings." Messrs. Bullen and Leake, in the preface to the first edition of the work above mentioned, thus stated what, in 1860, was the accepted view of the profession upon the subject of pleading: "It must be remembered that the accurate statement of such of the facts and circumstances of each case as are necessary to enable the plaintiff on the one hand to establish his entire cause of action, and the defendant on the other hand to set up his entire defence, is still an essential part of the duty of counsel; and that although a final defeat of justice upon merely formal grounds may leave a blank amendment, no legislative enactment can in all cases prevent the expense and delay which result from the necessity for amending untrue or imperfect narrations of the facts relied upon by the respective parties." A careful and accurate pleader having "Bullen and Leake" at his elbow can still save his client an enormous amount of expense, and by narrowing the issues can secure the speedy administration of justice.