

placed solely under the jurisdiction of an elective mayor and constables of the staple who were to administer the law merchant. Where one party was a merchant, suits could be brought either in the staple or at Common Law; and suits relating to land were withdrawn from the jurisdiction of the staple entirely. If both parties were aliens, the jury was to be composed of foreigners; if they were both English, the jury was to be English; and if one party was a denizen and the other an alien, the jury was to be composed half of denizens and half of strangers. The Statute 36 Edw. III., st. 1, c. 7, restricted the jurisdiction of the staple to actions of debt, contract and covenant between merchants. All pleas of felony and all other actions were to be at Common Law, except in the case of alien merchants, who could implead or be impleaded of any offence either in the staple or at Common Law. In order that contracts within the staple might be better observed, recognizances called "statutes-staple," similar to statutes-merchant, were entered into before the mayor and sealed with the seal of the staple. Upon default, the proceedings were similar to those above detailed, but when execution was to be issued out of Chancery, instead of sending the recognizance to the Chancellor, the mayor of the staple sent merely a certificate under his hand of the amount due. Moreover, the debtor was not allowed the benefit of the quarter of a year given him for payment by a statute-merchant. By 23, Henry VIII., c. 6, the benefit of these mercantile transactions was extended to the public generally.

These Acts are interesting as being part of the old system of state direction of commerce, which was not entirely abandoned even when, in the middle of this century, the free trade policy was established in England. The state still controls railways by means of a Commission, and regulates the Canadian cattle trade by Orders-in-Council; and we still have in Canada a survival of this old establishment of staples in our "Ports of Entry," under the Customs Act (R.S.C., c. 32, s.s. 21-24), no goods being allowed to be entered except at certain places fixed by Orders-in-Council. References can be made to Reeve's History of English Law, Vol. 2; Stephen's Commentaries, Vol. 1, and Gibbin's Commercial History of England.

WITH this number we begin our first year. We hope the student body will give this column their encouragement. The news in this number is somewhat old, but owing to the great fire of January 10th, this number was destroyed. The law students should appoint some one to edit this column in their interests; possibly the Literary Society would appoint some one editor. We will devote this column to the students and welfare of students at law, and advocate everything that is to their interest.

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LEGAL AND LITERARY SOCIETY.

SINCE our last issue we have here to note the meetings of December 1st, 7th, and 15th, and the meeting of January 12th. We will take them in regular order.