

As some of our readers may not be familiar with the subject, it may not be amiss to shortly refer to his definition of the *De Facto* Doctrine. He speaks of it as a rule of law which, (1) justifies the recognition of the authority of governments established and maintained by persons who have usurped sovereign authority and assert themselves by force and arms against the lawful government; (2) which recognizes the existence of, and protects from collateral attack public or private bodies corporate, which though irregularly or illegally organized, yet, under colour of law, openly exercise the powers of regularly created bodies; (3) which imparts validity to the official acts of persons who under colour of right hold office under such governments or exercise existing offices where the performance of such official acts is for the benefit of the public and not for their own personal advantage; the doctrine being grounded on considerations of public policy, justice and necessity. It will readily be seen how wide a field is thus necessarily covered.

A careful examination has been made of the Canadian and English cases on the subject and they are all cited and discussed. The volume will therefore (apart from the citation of American authorities) be most useful both in England and her colonies. It must also, for this as well as other reasons, be most acceptable to the profession in the United States, for in that country is to be found, what cannot be found in the mother country and her dependencies, an unbroken current of authorities which traces the evolution of the governing principles from its first application to the settled doctrine of the present day.

The aim of the author has been, in setting forth the general principles of this somewhat neglected doctrine, as gathered from English, Canadian and American reports and in stating his propositions in accordance with his views of what each case decides, to illustrate them by interweaving verbatim quotations from the more important judicial utterances. This has several advantages and lends additional value to the work, especially as very many of the volumes consulted are not available to most practitioners.

Whilst the author has of necessity gathered largely from United States reports, the book is by no means what is generally called an American text-book. It evidently was not written for any particular jurisdiction, but for all communities whose systems of jurisprudence are based on the English common law. It must also be remembered that there is no English work