

BOOK REVIEWS.

of one of his most equally ignorant and still more pretentious brother-judges), that he made the humiliating confession that *he had never read but one law book in his life—Selwyn's Nisi Prius.*"

Coming to details, he charges Mr. Justice Fisher with "misquoting the language of the B. N. A. Act;" Mr. Justice Henry with "leaving out of sight the very essence of the clause—playing Hamlet with the part of Hamlet omitted;" Mr. Justice Wetmore with giving "an absurd dissenting judgment." He also gives it as his opinion that in a certain dissenting judgment of Chief Justice Allen "there is a great amount of stilted nonsense;" that Mr. Justice Gwynne's "unsound rule—as it is claimed that it is—leads him astray;" that Mr. Justice Strong "contravenes the express language of the Act and the rule of construction there given," and "furnishes a rule as bad as are those of Mr. Loranger;" that "the judgments of Weldon, Fisher and Wetmore, JJ., were probably the most ridiculous of all the judgments that have yet been delivered on the *ultra vires* question;" that Mr. Justice Palmer "delivered a dissenting judgment which is very loosely reasoned, rambling and incoherent;" and that he "ridicules one of his brother-judges."

The character of the book may be gathered from the above, for we have neither patience nor space for further investigations. But our review would not be complete without two choice criticisms of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, which we give *verbatim* as follows:

"It is almost painful (a kind of—as Byron would call it—pleasing pain), in the excessively ridiculous aspect in which their views are presented, to follow them further. Their ignorance (to be perfectly candid and strictly just), actual, stupid, stolid ignorance of the matter they are examining, when we consider that *that* is our highest authoritative Appellate Court, is positively painful."

"It will scarcely be credited that the Privy Council were so utterly ignorant as so many children—but credited or not, astounding as the fact was even to ourselves, when it was forced upon our minds."

A man of "many minds." And by such arguments the author proposes to teach the public what are the Constitutional powers of Parliament and of the Local Legislatures!

THE NATURALIZATION ACT, CANADA, 1881, with Notes, Forms, Table of Fees, etc. Appendix containing Treaty, etc., also Naturalization Laws of United States, with forms, etc. By Alfred Howell, of Osgoode Hall, Barrister-at-Law, author of "Surrogate Courts Practice;" Carswell & Co., publishers, Toronto.

The new law establishing a uniform system of naturalization for the whole Dominion, which recently came into operation, is one of very great importance, and is of interest not only to the legal

profession, Clerks of Courts, Registrars, and Justices of the Peace, but to the whole foreign population of the country which, already large, is being increased by many thousands each year. The law covers not only the common naturalization, but the whole question of the nationality of Canadians as well as British subjects and of foreigners within our boundaries. It defines the national character of married women, widows and minors; and it places aliens on the same footing in Canada in holding and disposing of real and personal property as British subjects. The principle enunciated by Lord Chief Justice Cockburn, that—"it should be free to every one to expatriate and denationalize himself, and to transfer his allegiance to another country"—is embodied in it. The Act could not be understood or put into full practical operation unless read side by side with orders-in-council and other State papers referred to in it. In the treatise before us these have been collected, and with Mr. Howell's annotations and a disquisition on the old rule of perpetual allegiance in the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States, form a complete exposition, in a condensed form, of the law upon the subject. Those desirous of using the United States law and forms or comparing it with the Canadian, will find the former set forth in the Appendix.

Mr. Howell appears to have done his work well and carefully. We have already commended this little work to the profession.

A MANUAL containing a Short Summary of the usual Practice and manner of Proceeding in Ordinary Cases coming under the observation of Justices of the Peace, Coroners, Constables, Landlords, Bailiffs, etc., and also containing a large amount of useful information for Farmers, Mechanics, Business men, and the Public generally, by Edward Norman Lewis, Barrister-at-Law. Toronto: Carswell & Company.

In this little book which has been "carefully revised" by Judges Toms and Doyle, of County of Huron, we have much information very useful to many classes of persons. After a few preliminary pages devoted to the practice before Justices of the Peace, the author proceeds to set out in alphabetical order a list of indictable and summary cases. Then follows Chapter IV., devoted to the subject of Coroners, and Chapter V. on Constables. Chapter VI. gives elementary information on such subjects as Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages; Mechanics' Liens, Mills' Act, Line Fence Act, Estray Animals, Leases and Rent, and the Ditches and Watercourse Act. Many forms are given. Speaking generally the book will be found to contain a great deal of information, handily arranged. It is a pity that the author has not in all cases referred to his authority.