

AMERICAN STATE REPORTS, VOLS. 49 AND 50.—The American State Reports, Containing the Cases of General Value and Authority, Subsequent to those Contained in the "American Decisions" and the "American Reports," decided in the Courts of Last Resort of the Several States. Selected, Reported, and Annotated by A. O. FREEMAN and the Associate Editors of the American Decisions. Vols. XLIX and L. San Francisco: Batoroft-Whitney Company, Law Publishers and Law Booksellers. 1896.

The new typographical dress in which these volumes are printed will arrest the attention of the reader. The italics and bold-faced type, which in former volumes served to facilitate search, have now disappeared, and in the captions and so-called sideheads, thin-faced capital letters have taken their place; whilst the italics have disappeared from the numerous notes, leaving it like a barren California plain in August, when the grass is all dried up. Whether it be

an evidence of the hard times through which we have been passing, or of a desire on the part of the publishers to keep abreast of the times, or a pardonable desire on their part to make as large a profit out of their subscribers as possible, — it is plain that the *linotype* has got in its economical work on these two last volumes; but whether in the way of improving the dress of the work there will perhaps be a difference of opinion. Certainly, the type now used is new and clean, and in this respect the pages look better than did the pages of the preceding volumes. If this change is ascribable to three years of hard and rigorous times for business men, it is gratifying to know that it is not accompanied with any diminution of editorial care and skill. The same copious notes are found as in previous volumes, and these notes are devoted to important living questions in the law. Nor has there been any diminution in the number of pages. Each volume still carries about 1050 pages. The usefulness of this publication need not be suggested to lawyers who are so fortunate as to possess it. Those who are not thus fortunate, if they knew what they are missing, would be hankering after it, just as the Pope would have been hankering after Father Tom's poteen, if he had known what it was.

CHURCH'S DIGEST OF THE AMERICAN STATE REPORTS, FROM VOL. 25 TO 48.—A Digest of the Decisions of the Courts of Last Resort of the Several States, from the Year 1892 to the Year 1896, Contained in the American State Reports, Volume 25 to 48 inclusive, and of the Notes therein Contained, to which is Prefixed an Alphabetical Index to the Notes. By W. S. CHURCH. San Francisco: Bancroft-Whitney Company, Law Publishers and Law Booksellers. 1896.

Mr. Church is known to the profession as an author of some excellent legal works, and he has been for several years one of the editors of the American State Reports. He has produced what seems to be in all respects a good digest. The cross-references are numerous, and direct the searcher to the very paragraph where the intended matter is found. The titles are numerous and aptly selected. The paragraphs are assumed to be the same as the syllabi of the American State Reports, but they have been drawn with care. There is a very copious index to the notes in the volumes of the American State Reports which are here digested. There is also a table of all the cases published in full in the same volumes. How the publishers came to allow this table of cases to be made and printed in the present work in large type we do not know, in view of their well-known antipathy to tables of cases.

ELLIOTT ON PRIVATE CORPORATIONS, SECOND EDITION.—The Principles of the Law of Private Corporations. With Leading and Illustrative Cases. By CHARLES B. ELLIOTT, Ph. D., LL.D., a Judge of the District Court of Minnesota and Head of the Department of Corporation and International Law in the College of Law of the University of Minnesota. *Second Edition.* Minneapolis: The Goodyear Book Co. 1896.

This is a volume of a little over 600 pages of ordinary law type and size. It is intended primarily for students, and consists of two parts: one part which may be called a treatise, and another which consists of a collection of cases printed after the Langdell plan, without head notes, the student being expected to dig into each case and tell what it decides without the aid of the reporter. It seems to us that it is a good book of the kind. The author is a learned lawyer, a scholar, and a thinker. He has been in times past an occasional con-

tributor to the **AMERICAN LAW REVIEW**, and he has an article in this department of our present number.

There is a difference of opinion upon the question whether books specially prepared for students are the most valuable to them. Some instructors in the law are of opinion that the best book to place in the hands of the student is the very book that you would place in the hands of the judge or on the shelf of the practitioner; and we are of that opinion. Others go on the milk-for-babes principle; though it ought to be fairly stated that this is not a book of that kind. It would be difficult to draw any distinction in style or in mode of explanation between the text of this book and the text which a good lawyer would construct if he were writing a treatise on the same subject for use by his professional brethren. Without time to give it more than a hasty examination, it impresses us as likely to lead the student into a knowledge of the leading doctrines relating to the law of private corporations, as they are settled and unsettled in the United States.

HARDWICKE'S HISTORY OF ORATORY AND ORATORS.—History of Oratory and Orators: A study of the Influence of Oratory upon Politics and Literature, with Special Reference to Certain Orators Selected as Representative of the Several Epochs, from the Earliest Dawn of Grecian Civilization down to the Present Day. By **HENRY HARDWICKE**, Member of the New York Bar, the New York Historical Society, etc. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1896.

This is too good a book to be reviewed merely: we are going to read it.

WILLIAM PENN'S PLAN FOR THE PEACE OF EUROPE.—This celebrated document is reprinted by the directors of the Old South Work, at Old South Meeting House, Boston, Mass. It embraces a pamphlet of 19 printed pages, and is given to us with the quaint spelling and capitalization of the days of William Penn. We understand that "the Directors of the Old South Work" is an association whose aim is to rescue from oblivion the monuments of the early colonial history of our country. Their labors ought to have something more than a curious interest for that class who have the leisure and the inclination for historical inquiry and research, if we may judge from the following list of their publications: —

1. Early Massachusetts History.
2. Representative Men in Boston History.
3. The War for the Union.
4. The War for Independence.
5. The Birth of the Nation.
6. The Story of the Centuries.
7. America and France.
8. The American Indians.
9. The New Birth of the World.
10. The Discovery of America.
11. The Opening of the West.
12. The Founders of New England.
13. The Puritans in Old England.
14. The American Historians.

MILLER ON THE LAW OF NATURE AND NATIONS.—The Law of Nature and Nations in Scotland: being the Lectures delivered in Session 1895-96 in the University of Glasgow, introductory to the Three Courses of (1) Philosophy of Law, General and Comparative Jurisprudence, (2) the Law of Nations, or Public International Law, and (3) International Private Law. By WILLIAM GALBRAITH MILLER, M. A., LL.B., Advocate. Edinburgh: William Green & Sons, Law Publishers. 1896.

These three essays, beautifully printed on clear toned paper with large and clear type, are altogether too attractive to be passed hastily through the reviewer's crucible. We are going to read them carefully, not merely for the purpose of writing a future notice, but for the literary treat which a hurried examination leads us to anticipate.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.