

such thing as recovering private debts, but for paying the King his rents, it never once entered into their thoughts."

A letter from Gov. Oglethorpe of Georgia reports very fully two interviews with the chiefs of the Chickasaw Indians at Savannah in 1736. The great fire at Charleston in November, 1740, calls forth a petition to the King, from the Legislature of the colony, in behalf of the distressed inhabitants.

—The Massachusetts papers include many letters from Gov. Belcher, describing the difficulties of his position. On November 13, 1740, he writes to his brother-in-law, Richard Partridge, who had been looking after his interests at court, "I understand, since the arrival of the last ships my Enemies have a great dependence upon a revival of the censure past on me last year in the Privy Council. I know they would move heaven and hell if it were in their power, to get me out at the King's return, but considering the vast interest you have made for me, I hope they will be finally defeated and disappointed—I know I shall stand in need of all the strength you can make, so, pray, brother, be still alive and on the sharp look out." His hopes, however, were not fulfilled, for in May, 1741, he was superseded by Shirley. Full of interest, too, are the papers relating to the siege of Quebec. The opinions of two of Wolfe's subordinates as to his generalship are perhaps worth quoting. Brig.-Gen. Townshend, who succeeded to the command at the death of Wolfe, says in a letter to his wife, written from Camp Levi on September 6, 1759, "Gen. Wolfe's health is but very bad. His generalship in my poor opinion—is not a bit better, this only between us. He never consulted any of us till the latter end of August, so that we have nothing to answer for I hope as to the success of this Campaign." And Brig.-Gen. Murray, in a letter to Townshend dated October 5, 1759, says, "I have no copy of the paper I sent by you to Gen'l Wolfe concerning his scheme of landing between Point au Tremble and St. Augustin, but the publick orders are a sufficient proof of his intention to do it, and likewise of the suddenness of the thought of landing when we did. Indeed his orders throughout the campaign show little stability, stratagem, or fixt resolution; I wish his friends had not been so much our enemies, his Memory would probably have been dearer to his country than now it can be. We are acting on the defensive, you have the execution of the plan, and I am well persuaded you will manage it with as much tenderness to the memory of the poor General as the nature of things will admit of." The letter of Gen. Townshend to William Pitt, describing the attack and capture of Quebec, is printed in full, as is also another account of the operations from a series of Rough Notes of the movements of the forces from July 28 to September 13.

—Interesting in a different way is the correspondence between the third Lord Townshend and Dean Tucker, discussing theories of commerce, the corn bounties, taxation, etc., while the correspondence between this same Lord Townshend and the authorities of Cambridge University concerning the prizes offered by his Lordship, for the two best essays "upon subjects included within the Theory of Trade," will be found rather amusing reading. It closes with the following letter from his Lordship to Dr. Law:

"Sir: I received your letter of the 24th inst this morning and shall in answer only mention in a few words that when you, the Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge, did in your letter of the 28th of Jan'y last seem to charge me with inconsistency of conduct, and did mention in that

letter, that the first question relating to the influence of Trade on morals might as you apprehend be postponed on account of the great corruption for some time visible among the trading ports of our nation; witness the late uproar raised about the general naturalization and Jew Bills, I did resolve to let the Institution drop so far as I have been concerned in it, and to give myself no further trouble about it, you need not therefore give yourself the trouble of transmitting to me the two Prize Dissertations. There is not any moral duty which is not of a commercial nature. Freedom of Trade is nothing more than a freedom to be moral agents. And since a free moral inquiry into this most interesting theory on the observance of which the happiness of this life and of the next do entirely depend, cannot be allowed at your University, I have done, and have nothing more to add than that I am, sir, your obedient humble servant."

—The February number of *Les Lettres et les Arts* (Chas. Scribner's Sons), though it contains only five articles, is as varied in its contents as this review generally is, for both M. Jules Simon and M. Guy de Maupassant have presented their subjects under so many aspects that an impression of variety and abundance is made by the whole. In "Un Normalien en 1833," M. Jules Simon returns to the days of his youth, to the *collège* at Vannes in Brittany and the *École Normale* in Paris. It is not an account of his student life that he gives, but rather a vivid picture of the great school which has sent into the world so many men of note in the present century, and of its famous teachers at the time—Cousin, Damiron, Garnier, for philosophy, Nisard for literature, Michelet for history. All these, and others less famous, are presented with striking vividness and reality. Even the Abbé Lacordaire and his lectures at the *Collège Stanislas*, which drew young men from all the schools of Paris to listen to him, are pictured in a few striking pages. But the chief figure is that of the writer's friend and companion, a Breton like himself, whom he calls Jean Le Bris, who, like Renan and Ferdinand Fabre, began in the *séminaire* of his province an ecclesiastical training which growing doubts finally cut short. The writer warns his readers in the beginning that perhaps Jean Le Bris was not at the *École Normale*, that he was perhaps not at the *séminaire* at Vannes, nor afterwards a member of the *Institut*. But he adds that, aside from these small details, all that he relates is scrupulously true. Jean Le Bris seems to represent the conscientious change from a state of faith to one of doubt, and, finally, unwilling rejection of early religious beliefs in the generation to which he belonged. But M. Jules Simon has made a striking reality of his moral and historical and artistic conception, and he has clothed it in the inimitable simplicity of that style which makes of him one of the most attractive of writers. In another way M. de Maupassant's "Sur l'eau" is as wonderful a piece of work. He tells us it is part of a journal kept during a cruise along the shore of the Mediterranean in his yacht, the *Bel-Ami*, in which he amused himself by writing what he saw and what he thought. What an artist and a thinker like M. de Maupassant sees and thinks and relates is something to charm any reader. This journal of three April days and nights is one of the most varied and finished of M. de Maupassant's always delightful impressions of travel, in which his best qualities are revealed.

—Mention was made in Number 1184 of the *Nation* of the discovery of the site of ancient Icaria in excavations conducted by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, and we print this week a long letter on the same subject. The determination of the site was important in itself, but the continued

excavations have been unexpectedly productive of interesting results. Among the objects which have been brought to light is a colossal head (ten inches across the face) of the bearded Bacchus, admirably executed, and believed to belong to the sixth century B. C. The front hair is made up into huge "spit curls" (each being an inch and a half across), all around the forehead, and down to the ears. The eyes are of the archaic, almond type, and the beard and moustache are curled with all the elaborateness of an Assyrian statue, yet this is distinctively not Assyrian. The beard resembles that of the Cypriote figures, yet it has a character of its own. One long slab, which had served (fortunately face downwards) as the doorsill of a Byzantine church, bears a complete duplicate (except the face) of the celebrated "Warrior of Marathon." Among other works of art are a torso of a young satyr, and another of a colossal statue of a male draped figure. Two slabs are covered on each face with reliefs of processions or sacrifices. Two inscriptions of the fifth century B. C. have been found, of the highest interest for the rural worship of Dionysus. Work has been interrupted somewhat by unfavorable weather; and as yet, when each day brings new discoveries which supplement those of the previous days, no careful study of the treasure-trove has been possible. These discoveries seem to us to be extraordinarily important, and we trust that they will excite sufficient interest to help in securing a permanent endowment for the School at Athens.

#### BRACTON'S NOTE BOOK.

*Bracton's Note Book*: A collection of cases decided in the King's Courts during the Reign of Henry III., annotated by a lawyer of that time, seemingly by Henry of Bracton. Edited by F. W. Maitland of Lincoln's Inn, Barrister at Law, Reader of the English Law in the University of Cambridge. London: C. J. Clay & Sons, Cambridge University Press Warehouse. 1887. Three volumes, octavo, pp. 337, 720, 723.

This is a book of extraordinary interest and value; and the importance of its contents is well supported by the thorough and admirable manner in which it is edited. It presents us with authentic copies from the judicial records, hitherto unpublished, of cases in the King's courts of the time of Henry III., covering nearly the first twenty-four years of his reign, say, 1217-1240. Not merely that; it is a selection of the more important cases, and made by a contemporary writer; and there is very strong reason indeed to believe that it was made by Bracton himself.

Bracton was one of the principal judges of the time, and the author of a great legal treatise of which, comparing it with Blackstone, Mr. Maitland well remarks: "Twice in the history of England has an Englishman had the motive, the courage, the power to write a great readable, reasonable book about English law as a whole." It has been the fashion, at one time and another, to slight Bracton on account of his use of matter derived from what has been called the legal *plenum* of that period, the Roman law. Fitzherbert, in his 'Abridgment' (*Garde*, 71), has preserved a remark of the Judges in the generation just preceding his own, to the effect that Bracton was never regarded as an authority in English law—"et tout le court dit que Bracton ne fut unques tenus pur auctor en nostre ley." This was repeated by a chief justice in the next century (Plowden, 358); and in the last century we hear

it more than once, not only in England, but on the Continent. But, whoever says it, we know it now for a shallow and ignorant remark; we know that the sober Reeves was much nearer right when, in composing his 'History of the English Law,' he praised Bracton so highly and adopted him "as the basis of all legal learning." Now there is good and probably sufficient reason to believe that we have here a note book of cases, prepared under his own supervision, which Bracton used in the preparation of his great work; and we may now have the novel and really startling satisfaction of testing and weighing Bracton's statements of the law by comparing them with the cases upon the authority of which he made them. It is many a year since any contribution has been made to the study of the history and foundations of the English law which is at all comparable to this.

The manuscript of the 'Note Book' was discovered in the British Museum in 1884—or rather the true character of the manuscript was first suspected then—by Professor Vinogradoff of Moscow. We owe the publication of it now to the devotion and generosity of Mr. Maitland. He speaks in the most modest way of his excellent editorial labors:

"Before I am blamed for having done less than might have been done in the way of collating rolls, giving various readings, making indexes and notes, it will, I hope, be remembered that this has been a private enterprise. I have often had to count the cost; also to reflect that another day in the Record Offices or the British Museum would mean another hundred miles in the train. . . . As there was no learned society whose business it was to encourage the study of English legal history (for the Selden Society was not yet born nor even thought of), it seemed likely that the 'Note Book' would remain unprinted for many years unless some one would make such an edition of it as could be made at his own cost and without giving to it all his time. Perhaps I was not the man for the work; but I have liked it well."

The cases themselves, of which there are 1,982, are in the Latin of the original rolls, and fill two stout octavo volumes. Then there is another thinner first volume, containing a short preface, an account of the discovery of the manuscript by Professor Vinogradoff, a full and excellent introduction by Mr. Maitland, and, finally, a careful apparatus of tables and indexes. For many people the index of persons and of places will have much interest, exhibiting as it does familiar names of the present day upon the judicial rolls of six or seven centuries ago.

The discovery of the real nature and value of this manuscript so recently, and by a Russian, is a striking reminder of the relative backwardness of English scholars in a knowledge of the history of their own law. Vinogradoff, Professor of History at Moscow, while investigating the sources of mediæval history in England in 1884, in the course of examining Bracton and his authorities, was referred to this manuscript. A careful reading of it and comparison with Bracton's text led him to the belief that "it was drawn up for Bracton and annotated by him or under his direction." He published a letter in the *Athenæum* for July 19, 1884, giving strong reasons for this opinion; and the matter was then taken up by English scholars. England owes Mr. Maitland much for having come forward at once and assumed the great labor and expense of this publication. And it will do well if it heeds his humorous warning, in calling for a new edition of Bracton's treatise—so lately edited, in a very discreditable manner, at the public expense: "Bracton's treatise ought to be carefully and lovingly edited. If this be not done by an Englishman, it will be done by a foreigner—as it is written;

Vocabo super eos gentem robustam et longinquam et ignotam cuius linguam ignorabunt"; and for this passage he duly cites his authority, Bracton, folio 34. "Carefully and lovingly edited"—the phrase is a peculiar one; but it intimates well the character of the writer's own patient, scholarly, thorough, admirable work in editing the 'Note Book.'

Passing over the first sixty pages of his Introduction, which relate to Bracton's treatise, and to matters illustrating his personal history, and which are full of instruction, we come to what takes up the larger part of the remaining eighty pages—an excellent account of the 'Note Book' and of its relation to the great treatise. The manuscript was bought by the British Museum from the library of a Mr. John Holmes of East Rexford. A few pages are missing at and near the beginning, and an unknown amount is wanting at the end. Some memoranda upon it in a hand of the fifteenth century indicate that it was in about its present shape then. It has marginal notes in a hand of the thirteenth century which appear to have been made by the person for whom the cases were copied. In comparing the 'Note Book' with the original rolls, Mr. Maitland discovered that many of the rolls here copied are not now extant; but where they do exist he found a circumstance which we must let him tell in his own words:

"When, having copied some pages of the 'Note Book,' I took my transcript to the Record Office, in the hope of finding the original records, I expected that the work of hunting for my cases would be tedious. To my surprise and delight, on taking up the first roll, I discovered that the work had been done for me. Every case that I wanted had against it a mark of an obvious, unmistakable kind. In the margin of the roll, down the whole length of the case, some one had drawn a firm, heavy line, in color a dark rusty brown; to look at, it was much such a line as might have been drawn by the old-fashioned red-lead pencil. I soon learned to know that this 'scoring,' as I call it, was the work of the man who had the Note Book made for him. Whenever there was a scored roll, the cases in the Note Book agreed perfectly with the cases on that roll, saving the immaterial omissions, of which hereafter, and saving mere clerical blunders. . . . In some instances the copyist has apparently obeyed what he took to be his instructions, with a slavish obedience; he has left out the important end of a case, because the mark on the roll did not go far enough, or has copied just the first lines of the next case, because the mark went a little too far."

Mr. Maitland's argument (pp. 72-117) for thinking the 'Note Book' to be Bracton's is singularly temperate; at the same time, it is strong, and such as will bring many a reader to join with him in the "revocable judgment" which, after the formula of the rolls, he enters up at the end of the discussion: "Et ideo consideratum est quod Henricus recuperavit seism suam, salvo iure cuiuslibet." We will state the outline of the argument, but much of its force depends on circumstances for which we have not room.

Bracton's treatise cites nearly five hundred cases, of which two hundred are found in the 'Note Book.' All are from three classes of Rolls: (1.) Of the bench at Westminster; (2.) Of pleas which followed the King; (3.) Eyre Rolls. Both the treatise and the 'Note Book' begin and end their collections from the rolls of the first class at the same point. Both begin taking cases from the rolls of the second class at the same point, and, as regards these, all the cases in both are from the same six consecutive rolls. Of the Eyre Rolls the treatise cites twenty, and the 'Note Book' only eight; but all, in both, are rolls of the same two famous judges, Pateshull and Raleigh; and inasmuch as the cases from the Eyre Rolls

come last in the 'Note Book,' and the end of this is lost, a reason is given for the absence from it now of other cases of this class.

Again, there is a close and curious resemblance between the side-notes and other annotations of the 'Note Book' and the text of the treatise. The nature of the annotations, as being made by the one for whom the work was done, their references and omissions to refer to legislation, and their citations of other cases, indicate pretty plainly their date as about that of the compilation of the 'Note Book' itself, viz., about 1240-1256; and with this the handwriting agrees. Curious phrases, the same context of words, the same peculiar opinions, and the same errors appear in both. As regards certain not perfectly verifiable cases briefly cited in these annotations, e. g., thus: *ferre casus Cole, casus Corbyn, casus Radulphi de Arundelle*, etc.—Mr. Maitland examines them all. Some of them occur in a like form in an important manuscript of the treatise; others appear to be cases tried before Bracton himself, or such as related to neighbors or friends of his, or are in some probable way connected with Bracton.

The last of Mr. Maitland's arguments points out that the 'Note Book' and the treatise are both "guilty of the same astonishing blunder." The statute of Merton, chapter ix, as is well known, preserves, as of the date of January 23, 1235-36, the fact that the Bishops declared that they could not and would not answer certain questions relating to bastardy which were at that period put to them, and that they asked the Lords to consent to a change in the law, so that children born before the marriage of their parents should be legitimated by the after marriage. And then came the famous answer: "Et omnes comites et barones una voce responderunt quod nolunt leges Anglie mutare que usitate sunt et approbate." A hundred years later (11 Ass., 20) Chief-Justice Scrope said, in explanation of this "statute," that previously, if it was alleged that a man was a bastard, it was usual to send to the Bishop to certify in this form, viz., whether he was born before marriage or after, and upon the answer the common-law courts gave judgment according to the law of the land. The operation of this was to keep the question of law in the hands of the common-law judges instead of leaving it with the clergy. There had been in October, 1234, an ordinance requiring this to be done; and the statute of Merton shows that the Bishops refused to obey it. Now, it is a singular fact that Bracton transposes the order of these two provisions; he makes the ordinance of 1234 follow the statute of Merton, as of October, 1236, and as having been called out by the refusal recorded in the "statute." This error in Bracton was pointed out by Selden. Now, the 'Note Book' does the same thing, with a variation; it makes the ordinance follow the statute of Merton, only it carries both back to the year 1234. As regards these enactments there are also other remarkable resemblances between the treatise and the 'Note Book,' in points where both differ from the statutes; and these are brought out very clearly by Mr. Maitland by the use of parallel citations.

Such, in a very imperfect summary, are the arguments. While "the value of this book," as the editor justly says, "does not depend wholly or even chiefly" on the success of the argument that it is Bracton's own 'Note Book,' he reasonably considers the case to be made out, and sums up thus:

"The treatise is absolutely unique; the 'Note Book,' so far as we know, is unique; these two unique books seem to have been put together within a very few years of each other,

while yet the statute of Merton was *noua gracia*; Bracton's choice of authorities is peculiar, distinctive; the compiler of the 'Note Book' made a very similar choice; he had, for instance, just six consecutive rolls of pleas *coram rege*; Bracton had just the same six; two-fifths of Bracton's five hundred cases are in this book; every tenth case in this book is cited by Bracton; some of Bracton's most out-of-the-way arguments are found in the margin of this book, in particular that about the binding of land by warranty, that about the ejectment of a disseisor; the same phrases appear in the same contexts, *Iuste propter jus sed iniuste propter iniuriam, Nihil certius morte, nihil incertius hora mortis*; Corbyn's case, Ralph Arundell's case are 'noted up' in the 'Note Book'; they are 'noted up' also in the Digby MS. of the treatise; with hardly an exception all the cases thus 'noted up' seem plainly to belong to Bracton's country, to affect persons whom Bracton must have known, Raleighs, Traceys, Gorges, Blanchminsters, Winscots, Arundells, Punchardons; lastly, we find a strangely intimate agreement in error. The history of the ordinance about special bastardy and the *Nolumus* of Merton is confused and perverted in the same way in the two books."

As regards one of the Latin phrases quoted in this passage—when Bracton says, "licet nihil certius sit morte, nihil tamen incertius est hora mortis," and the annotator says, "nihil certius morte, nihil incertius hora mortis," the suspicion arises that both may be using some familiar quotation or commonplace; and Mr. Maitland does not overlook this.

"Mors incertarum rerum certissima cunctis, Incertum quando, certum aliquando mori";

so run certain seemingly monkish lines of unknown origin, in a little 'Flores Poetarum' published at Cologne in 1712. And Chaucer, as a friend reminds us, said, in the 'Clerk's Tale,' in the next century after Bracton's:

"And al so certein as we knowe echoon That we shal deye as uncerteyn we alle Been of that day when death shal ou us falle."

Perhaps the "nihil certius morte" will hardly be found in any classical author. And yet Bracton does quote Horace. In his "Est enim modus et mensura et fines certi, ultra quæ citra quæ nequit consistere rectum" (fol. 229 b), one detects the passage from Sat. i, 106, 107:

"Est modus in rebus, sunt certi denique fines, Quos ultra citraque nequit consistere rectum."

Fleta (Lib. iv, c., 23, s. 4), which seems to belong to the date of 1285, or thereabout, repeats this (as we might expect) in Bracton's form, but with the slight variation of "ultra quæ et citra." And then, oddly enough, in the 'Placitorum Abbreviatio' (226, col. 2), we may read it actually incorporated in the records of the King's Courts in precisely Bracton's form (saving only an evident slight misprint), at the end of a long judgment of 1291 in an Irish appeal on a writ of right. Among a variety of defects it was adjudged that the form in which the parties had put themselves upon the grand assize was wrong. Form, the judgment says, is necessary here, and consent of the parties will not cure the fault [etc., etc.], "cum sit modus et mensura et fines certi ultra quæ citra quæ nequid [sic] consistere rectum. Ideo consideratum est quod processus predictus irritetur, etc." Now, evidently the writer of that judgment might have taken this passage from his Bracton, or even, what is less likely, from his Fleta. Or, perhaps, Bracton's use of it had made it a commonplace. Or was it, possibly, already a commonplace when Bracton used it?

So far we have spoken of the relation of the 'Note Book' to Bracton. But the interest of it, as connected with other books and authors, does not end with what has yet been stated. "There can be but little doubt," says Mr. Maitland, "that, some two hundred and fifty years after its making, it came to the hands of another very famous lawyer, of Chief-Justice Sir Anthony Fitzherbert, who published his 'Grand Abridg-

ment' in 1514. . . . If Bracton introduces, Fitzherbert closes one great period of English law, the age of the Year Books." Mr. Maitland gives his reasons for this opinion, and they are very strong. We will merely indicate them. Fitzherbert has 214 cases from the reign of Henry the Third, of which 207 are from the first twenty-four years of the reign and are all in this book, and seven only are from the later thirty-two years. The cases are taken from the same rolls and follow the same unusual order adopted in the 'Note Book.' And it tends a little to support this conclusion that here and there in the 'Note Book' words (like *Corona*, etc.) are scribbled in it in a hand of the fifteenth or sixteenth century, which may well have been the catchwords for a Digest:

"For a second time, therefore, our 'Note Book' entered into the history of English law. Mediately, through Fitzherbert, it became one of Coke's main authorities (the treatises of Glanvill and Bracton are the others), for what was law before the days of Edward the First, his only authority for the case law of those days. . . . That Coke had studied at first hand the rolls of the thirteenth century, there are very few signs indeed; he was dependent on Fitzherbert, and Fitzherbert was dependent on this 'Note Book.'"

It strikes a reader's attention that the number of cases in Bracton and in Fitzherbert which are also found among the 2,000 of the 'Note Book,' is very nearly the same. But a look at the tables given by Mr. Maitland indicates that they are not the same cases. Was there an attempt on Fitzherbert's part to select such only as were *not* in Bracton's treatise? It looks a little like that; and one wonders what that may mean. The reader also finds himself curious as to the intermediate history of the 'Note Book'—from Fitzherbert to Mr. John Holmes of East Ruxford. Could not something be done to clear this up, by working backward?

And, now, what is it that one finds in the 'Note Book'? This is not the forum for any extended answer to that question, nor have we room for it now. But it may be said in a word that it is a mine of treasure for the student of our ancient law. To one who has any acquaintance with the learned researches of the Germans into the old Frankish and Germanic law, it will have much interest—both giving and receiving light. And, again, as a link between the older law and the Year Books, it will help to a better understanding of much in these dark volumes which the lawyers of their own time did not understand. The puzzling subject of the secta and the various substitutes for it, and the earlier usages as to trial by jury, are illustrated in many of the cases. As regards the law of real property, "numberless points are here set in a clear light." There is much relating to the jurisdiction of the spiritual courts. Wager of law and trial by battle are in full operation at this time. Selden remarks (*Duello*, c. 8): "Rare are the examples of battels waged upon criminals in the annals of the English laws, and (if I forget not) the least plural number doubled comprehends as many as are there reported with ensuing performance"; and thereupon he cites three cases from the Year Books. At least three more may be found in the 'Note Book.' A highly interesting class of cases are the appeals from the county and hundred courts; they disclose the antiquated procedure and usages that long held their own there, when newer ideas had made great headway in the King's Courts. We had marked a number of these cases for quotation, but they must be omitted. "In the eyes of a few connoisseurs," says Mr. Maitland, "the gems of this collection may be two cases which seem to show that feoffments to uses are as old as the

days of Henry the Third." But perhaps in this, as a learned friend suggests, the author seems to intimate a greater significance in those cases than they really have.

It should be added that Mr. Maitland has collated all his cases with the originals at the Record Office so far as the rolls are now extant; and that he has also done his readers the same good turn as in his excellent publication, three years ago, of the 'Gloucester Pleas of the Crown,' in extending the abbreviated Latin of the text. We have now, in Palgrave's 'Rotuli Curie Regis,' a copy of all extant rolls of the King's Courts from the beginning, in 1194, to the year 1200, being those of the sixth, ninth, and tenth years of Richard I. and the first year of John. Then come the invaluable selections of this 'Note Book,' running from 1217 to 1240; and also Mr. Maitland's other volume before referred to, the 'Pleas of the Crown for the County of Gloucester,' in 1221. And the much abbreviated contents of the 'Placitorum Abbreviatio,' in a way, carry us on from 1194 to 1327. These comprise about everything that we now have in print of that magnificent collection of judicial rolls now roofed within the Record Office in London. But we have a promise of more, thanks to the Selden Society, which is to issue to its subscribers very soon a collection of Pleas of the Crown, to be edited and translated by Mr. Maitland, which will help to bridge the gap between Palgrave's volumes and the 'Note Book.' In the good work upon which it is thus entering, we trust that the new society will be heartily encouraged by large additions to its funds and its membership. It is most fortunate in having at its service so learned, accomplished, and devoted a scholar as Mr. Maitland.

It goes hard with us to make any complaint whatever, but we have found ourselves wishing now and then that the index of subjects were a little fuller—at any rate in cross references—and that an index for the Introduction had not been omitted.

#### FOUR CLERICAL BIOGRAPHIES.

*Life and Work of J. R. W. Sloane, D.D.*, Professor of Theology in the Reformed Presbyterian Seminary at Allegheny City, etc. Edited by his Son. A. C. Armstrong & Son.

*The Life of Constans L. Goodell, D.D.* By A. H. Currier, D.D., Professor of Pastoral Theology in Oberlin Theological Seminary. With an introduction by William M. Taylor, D.D. Anson D. F. Randolph & Co. Pp. xix, 486.

*A Sketch of the Life and Episcopate of the Right Rev. Robert Bickersteth, D.D., Bishop of Ripon, 1857-1884.* By his son, Montagu Cyril Bickersteth, M.A., Vicar of St. Paul's, Pudsey, Leeds. With a preface by his cousin, Edward Henry Bickersteth, D.D., Lord Bishop of Exeter. E. P. Dutton & Co.

*Autobiography of William G. Schauffler*, for forty-one years a Missionary in the Orient. Edited by his Sons. With an introduction by Prof. E. A. Park, D.D., LL.D. A. D. F. Randolph & Co.

PROF. WM. SLOANE'S Life of his father consists one-quarter of biography and autobiography, and three-quarters of sermons and addresses. It is a valuable contribution both to church history and to the history of the anti-slavery movement in this country. The variously denominated Scottish-American sect of which Covenanters is the most honored name, had the peculiar distinction of being anti-slavery in its very constitution. As Dr. Sloane has recorded (p. 81);