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Recent Legal Literature

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RECENT LEGAL LITERATURE

A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS; Including Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes, Negotiable Bonds and Coupons, Checks, Bank Notes, Certificates of Deposit, Certificates of Stock, Bills of Credit, Bills of Lading, Guaranties, Letters of Credit, and Circular Notes. By John W. Daniel, of the Lynchburg, Va. Bar. In two volumes. Fifth Edition. Re-edited and enlarged with notes and references to American and English cases by John W. Daniel, the author, and Charles A. Douglass, of the Bar of the District of Columbia, and Professor of the Law of Negotiable Instruments in Georgetown University, of Washington, D. C. New York: Baker, Voorhis & Company, 1903. Pp. cliv. 936, x. 1004.

The first edition of this book appeared in 1876, and the work now reaches its fifth edition. It was the first attempt to embrace in one treatise a consideration of all kinds of negotiable instruments. The book was an immediate success and a new edition was necessary in 1879. The third edition appeared in 1882; the fourth in 1891, and the fifth, by the author and Professor Douglass, in 1903. The work has grown in favor with each edition, and, although there are now other good books covering the same field, this one is easily first. Nothing further need be said by way of general commendation.

Many new topics are treated in this edition; about thirty-five hundred cases have been added to the citations; and the "Negotiable Instruments Law," which has been adopted in twenty states, is given in the appendix. It is stated in the preface that, unlike the former editions, much of the new matter is not, owing to the pressure of other duties, the work of Senator Daniel's own hand, but the new matter appears to be adequately considered and carefully incorporated with the old, and this edition seems to be in every way admirable. The mechanical execution is excellent, the page is large and the measure—over twenty-one hundred pages in the two volumes—is generous to the point of overflowing.

FLOYD R. MECHEM.

A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF THE MEASURE OF DAMAGES FOR PERSONAL INJURIES; Including Suggestions on Pleading, Evidence, and Province of Court and Jury, applicable to the Trial of this Class of Cases. By George P. Voorheis, 1903. The Laning Co. Publishers, Norwalk, Ohio. One volume. Sheep. Pp. lxxxvi., 577.

This is one of a class of books seemingly justified if not demanded by the conditions of the times, namely, books upon narrow but important subdivisions of the great subjects of the law. The particular topic here dealt with is one of much practical concern, though not one inherently of very great difficulty. The most troublesome question connected with it is the matter of damages for "mental suffering." To its discussion ten of the twenty-five chapters of this book are devoted. "This question of mental suffering (says the preface) has been classified under different subjects as they appear in the varied commercial and social relations of life, as damages for humiliation, criticism, dis-

crimination and insult in public places without cause; for malicious arrest or false imprisonment; for breach of contract of marriage, and for negligent transmission and delivery of telegrams. It has received a careful examination and consideration, in separate chapters—under proper subdivisions, and special attention is called to the manner in which it has been discussed.”

“There are two other features of the work,” says the author, “which are also recommended for their utility. One is the list of verdicts which have been recovered for different injuries, where they have been permanent or resulted in death. It is often important to know what judgments have been sustained by the courts in an argument for a new trial or in the appellate court. It is believed that they will serve a useful purpose and save much labor and time. The other feature is the quotations from the authorities cited. The practitioner wants not only the authority, but especially wants to know what has been said by the court upon the question under consideration. Where the exact language has not been given, the holding of the court has been. This will save time in the examination of these authorities and will be convenient to use before the court when the reports cannot be consulted or produced.”

“A practical work has been the aim of the author,” and there can be no doubt that he has succeeded in producing a book which will appeal to those members of the profession who have occasion to deal with personal injury cases.

The book is dedicated: “To my Alma Mater, the University of Michigan, where I spent four years in the Literary and two years in the Law Department, and where I strengthened the love for study and laid the foundation which have made these pages possible.”

The mechanical execution of the book is very ordinary.

FLOYD R. MECHEM

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STEARNS ON SURETYSHIP.

DANIEL AND DOUGLASS' ELEMENTS OF NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS.

HOWARD'S LOUISIANA PURCHASE.

TIFFANY'S MODERN LAW OF REAL PROPERTY.