

praiseworthy and successful in limiting their remarks on the general law to stating just so much as is essential for the comprehension of their immediate subject and in avoiding the introduction of discursive or extraneous matter.

The last book on our list is a very modest volume, professing to be a code of Contract Law; and, while one is wondering by what process of compression so small a book can contain so large a subject, one discovers under the title, in much smaller type, the words "relating to the Sales of Goods of the value of 10*l.* and upwards"—a limitation which considerably reduces the scope of the work. The justification assigned for the diminutive and somewhat elementary nature of the book is that it is "a handbook for the use of professional and business men"; and, as such, it may be useful, although in legal matters, perhaps more than any others, it is true that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing. A professional or business man who endeavours, even with the aid of Mr. Farrington's manual, to be his own lawyer will probably find such a course eventually turn out bad economy. Still, the book is good in its way, and its propositions appear generally correct, albeit the selection of cases might be revised and modernized with advantage.

EPPING FOREST.\*

MR. BUXTON has rendered a great service to the public in general, and to Londoners in particular, in preparing a book which must henceforth take the first place among the guides to Epping Forest. Nothing which intimate personal knowledge of the locality and affection for it can give is wanting in this book. The directions accompanying the maps are clear and precise; holiday-makers armed with Mr. Buxton's book, even without the shilling pocket-compass which with characteristic thoughtfulness the author has arranged that they shall be able to buy at Messrs. Negretti & Zambra's, cannot fail to find their way easily from point to point within the Forest; for, in addition to excellent maps on the scale of three inches to the mile, he has given them a table showing the direction of the sun at each hour during each month of the year; he has drawn their attention to the chief landmarks in the Forest, and has even used his authority as a Verderer to provide an appendix to his book, for he has had the distinguishing initials of each of the several routes he describes cut on the barks of some of the trees upon it. It may be feared that this will encourage a pernicious cockney habit; but it illustrates the zeal with which Mr. Buxton has availed himself of every means to make his book a thoroughly efficient guide. The minute care expended upon the book is also illustrated by the warning Mr. Buxton gives his readers that, in order to remain dryshod, certain attractive excursions must only be undertaken in summer weather, and also that the views over the Forest can be best seen during the prevalence of east wind. The south and west winds bring London smoke with them, and often shut out the fairest distant views. A glance at the maps is sufficient to show any one who is a lover of forests that Mr. Buxton is a guide who can with safety be relied on; for the red lines which mark his routes most judiciously avoid the yellow lines which show the hard gravel roads. No forest can be seen from the roads which run through it, and the chief thing a pedestrian wishes to know about the roads is how to avoid them. The guide is beautifully illustrated with etchings and engravings, which add materially to its usefulness and beauty.

It must not be supposed that the Chairman of the London School Board has made his book nothing more than a topographical guide to the Forest. The first part is devoted to a history of the Forest and the way in which it has, by a series of fortunate chances, combined with much hard work and hard fighting, been preserved to the public for ever as one of the great national playgrounds. The first period of Forest history was one in which the rights of the Crown were kept up, in order to preserve to the Sovereign a hunting-ground "for his princely delight." The forests of Waltham (of which Epping is now the remnant) and Windsor were specially valued for this purpose on account of their proximity to the principal royal residences. This period may be taken to extend from the time of the Norman kings, or even earlier, down to the end of the last century. The royal forests suffered somewhat during the times of the Stuarts. Charles I. endeavoured to make money out of them by extorting fines from those who held lands within their boundaries. He gave the New Forest as security to his creditors, and was otherwise responsible for a good deal of injury that was done there; because no salaries to the woodmen and other servants were paid, they were, therefore, compelled to pay themselves by taking timber. Charles II. did his quota of mischief to the forests, too, after his kind, for he bestowed some of the young woods upon his maids of honour. It was well for the royal forests when the Stuart kings gave place to William III. In his reign Evelyn did much both in Epping and in the New Forest to repair the damage done, or allowed to be done, by the Stuarts. And from this time down to the end of the eighteenth century the forests suffered no more disasters. It is rather astonishing, a quarter of a century after Mr. Wise's very exhaustive History of the New Forest has been written, that Mr. Buxton falls into the error, exposed by Mr. Wise, of supposing that in the formation of the New Forest a great area of cultivated land was laid waste and

the greater part of the county of Hants depopulated. Mr. Wise's elaborate comparison between the entries in *Doomsday* and in the earlier survey made in the time of Edward the Confessor shows that the manors, the mills, the fisheries, and the saltens were undisturbed after the afforestation, that they kept up their value and in some cases even increased it. He also shows that there was no diminution in population; the churches of Boldre and Hordle were built immediately after the afforestation, and it is not very probable that new churches would have been built in a depopulated region. Moreover, the only two churches within the Forest area mentioned in *Doomsday*, Milford and Brockenhurst, are standing still, and prove by their Norman work that they must have been standing at the time when the supposed devastation was accomplished. Whatever the faults of the Conqueror may have been, he must in justice be absolved from the crimes until recently imputed to him in the formation of the New Forest; here, as at Waltham, the wastes and woods—i.e. unenclosed, uncultivated land, were afforested or appropriated by the king as hunting ground. William the Conqueror has had to pay the penalty of offending the fourth estate. He was not distinguished for sweet reasonableness in his dealings with the clergy, and as all the history of the time was written by them, they not unnaturally took their revenge. Even when the chronicler is not recording deeds of blood and pillage, a perhaps unconscious irony runs through his references to William I.; the well-known expression may be instanced "He loved the great Game as if he had been their Father"—i.e. he hunted them to death.

With the nineteenth century began what Mr. Buxton very properly calls the period of spoliation, when every one connected with the Forest except the despoiled commoners seemed to vie with one another in acts either of personal greed or of wanton destruction. Lords of manors induced commoners to sell their birthright for a mess of pottage; the Office of Woods deliberately and avowedly did everything in their power to reduce the value of the rights of fuel and pasture possessed by the commoners, in order to be able to buy up those rights for an insignificant sum. In Epping, Fairlop Oak and other historic trees were torn up by the roots; in the New Forest Sloden Yews were destroyed, and magnificent beeches, the pride of the country-side, were cut down and sold for firewood at 3*d.* a foot. Half of the precious 6,000 acres of Epping was inclosed and partly built upon between 1850 and 1870; and in the latter year Mr. Gladstone's Government, in its zeal for economy, proposed to sell the crown rights over the remainder of the Forest for 18,630*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.* If this had been permitted by the House of Commons, great encouragement would have been given to the work of inclosure; lords of manors would only have had the commoners to deal with in each case, and as the commoners were, as a class, poor, they would not generally have been able to resist inclosures even when illegally made, and still less would they have been able in many cases to resist the temptation of selling their rights for small sums of money. It was about this time that the Commons Preservation Society began to make a strong stand in and out of Parliament against further destruction of the few remaining English forests. One main difficulty in the case of Epping was to find a *locus standi* to fight the encroachers. The public, as such, had no rights. The only means of resisting inclosures was to find a commoner sufficiently pugnaucious and public-spirited to uphold his rights. At Epping such a man was found in the person of a labourer, named Willingale. He insisted on his right of lopping branches of trees in Loughton Manor; his act was in the first instance treated as a theft, and he was imprisoned. However, through the timely aid of the Commons' Preservation Society, he appealed; and the case, which lasted several years and was never finally decided, raised the question of the legal rights of commoners to fuel and pasture on the several manors. The chief gain to the public from Willingale's case was that the preservers of the Forest gained time, for no further inclosures were allowed pending the decision of the judges. However, the issue was still more than doubtful, for Mr. Gladstone's Government seemed persuaded that their duty was to encourage inclosure to the utmost, and to weaken and minimize the commoners' rights. Mr. Ayrton then reigned as Chief Commissioner of Works, and he introduced a Bill into the House of Commons making over absolutely to the lords of the manors in Epping Forest 5,000 acres, graciously bestowing upon the commoners a paltry 600, with permission to purchase 400 more at its full market value. Happily the Bill met with a vigorous resistance below the gangway on the Liberal side. This was in the pre-Caucus era, and unofficial Liberals were to be found bold enough to fight a Liberal Government. The Bill was abandoned as soon as the Government found they must choose between dropping it and being defeated upon it. The Willingale case had in the meantime nearly exhausted the funds at the disposal of the Commons' Preservation Society, when by a most fortunate accident the heat and burden of the day was found to be transferable to the broad shoulders of the Corporation of London. As owners of a cemetery at Wanstead the Corporation possessed common rights, and they wisely and generously decided to fight the battle for the maintenance of these rights and those of the other commoners. The result is well known, but it is so pleasing that it cannot be too often recalled; for the lords of manors were not only forbidden to make further inclosures, but they were actually compelled to restore to the commoners and the public the land which they had illegally appropriated. This victory, preluded by a legal contest lasting over fifteen years, introduced the third period of Forest history which may, it is hoped, be called the

\* *Epping Forest*. By Edward North Buxton, Verderer. London: Edward Stanford, 1884.

period of security, for the Act of Parliament which was passed in 1878 provides that the Forest is to remain "for ever" as an open space for recreation and enjoyment.

Mr. Buxton points out the important bearing of the introduction of Free-trade as affecting the question of open spaces in England. So long as the food of the English people had to be in the main produced in England, it was in the public interest to encourage the inclosure and cultivation of waste lands. But, now that our food supplies are drawn from every quarter of the world, the best use to which our forests and commons can be put is to keep them "for ever" in their wild state for the recreation and enjoyment of the people. We can import wheat, but we cannot import fresh air and breezy commons.

The third section of Mr. Buxton's book is devoted to a short but graphic account of the various objects of antiquarian and historical interest within the Forest; the fourth deals with the flora and fauna. Without being hypercritical of Mr. Buxton's careful work, it may be pointed out that the Londoner's friend, "creeping jenny," is not, as it should be, included in his flora of Epping Forest—unless, indeed, it is disguised under a more learned name than the one by which it is known in every London area and back-yard. The site of old Wanstead House recalls the services of Evelyn in the replanting of the Forest, and the escapades of Long Tynney Wellesley Long Pole, better remembered by the line in *Rejected Addresses* than as the spendthrift elder brother of the great Duke of Wellington. Waltham Abbey once contained the tomb of Harold, with the inscription "Haroldus Infelix"; but the stone disappeared in the period when restorers were not kept in check by Mr. William Morris and his friends. Mr. Buxton uses the word "sanctuary" in speaking of Waltham Abbey in rather a vague way. He says (p. 68), "A sanctuary of some sort stood here from very early times"—from which it does not appear whether he simply means a church, or whether he means that the right of sanctuary was connected with the Abbey. Waltham is not mentioned as one of the churches possessing the privilege of sanctuary in the list given in the tract in the *Archæologia* by the Rev. Samuel Pegge. If Mr. Buxton has reasons for believing it should have been included, a statement of them would have been an interesting addition to his book. A charming account is given of Greensted Church, the nave of which, dating from the Saxon period, is entirely built of solid trunks of oak trees; the interior surface is made flat, but on the exterior the round boles of the trees are left rough, and are believed to have stood more than a thousand years. This church is dedicated to St. Edmund, whose body remained there one night on its way to its final resting-place, Bury St. Edmunds. Mr. Buxton has two very pretty stories to tell of the Martyr-King, one of which is specially commended to lovers of the marvellous. In 1848 Greensted Church was repaired, and at the time when some of the trees of which its walls are built lay on the ground, the ancient oak-tree at Eye, in Suffolk, which tradition had always associated with the martyrdom of St. Edmund, fell also to the ground; on being cut up, a stone arrow-head was found within it, more than a foot from the surface, and it was asserted that the annual rings of growth in the tree showed that the arrow-head must have struck it more than a thousand years ago! This may be true or only *ben trovato*; but pretty stories are not very common in East Anglia, and this one deserved to be remembered.

#### RECENT MUSIC.

THE collection of part songs and choruses for three or four female voices, published by Mr. William Czerny, entitled "Ladies' Choruses," have now nearly reached the end of the fifth series. The numbers before us include arrangements of well-known songs and choruses by Handel, Schumann, and Flotow, and two new ones by Mr. G. Money and Mr. E. P. Cockram, entitled respectively "Loving for Ever" and "Saturday Night," both pleasing specimens of modern part songs, though many may consider the words of the latter more fit for a nursery-song book than for a chorus. The words given to Schumann's music in "Home for the Holidays" are supplied by an author who tells us that "To love and to cherish with youth should begin, For hatred is counted an awful big sin"—a statement perhaps more forcible than elegant, but which we suppose cannot be gainsaid. From the same publishers we have received "Crucifix," a sacred song by M. J. Faure, with accompaniments for violin, violoncello, and harmonium. Those who are not already acquainted with this fine song will find that their time will not be wasted in giving it the study it deserves. "Repose," a sketch for violin or violoncello, with pianoforte accompaniment, is a very graceful production from the pen of that versatile composer, Mr. Berthold Tours, and will be welcomed by those amateurs who are in search of effective and not over-difficult pieces for these instruments. A further batch of songs from Mr. William Czerny, contains "Mai tout en fleurs," a very charming setting of Victor Hugo's words by M. Edouard Marlois, and a taking ballad from the same composer, entitled "Flowers beyond the Stars"; a graceful Tyrolienne, with violin or flute accompaniment, "Birds of Balm Woodlands," by Mr. J. B. Wekerlin, and "Saturday Night," by Mr. E. P. Cockram, which we have already noticed as a part song. "In the Morning," by Herr Nicolai von Wilm, is a telling piece for the pianoforte, and "Viola," Danse gracieuse, by Herr Max Schröter, and "Valses des Sourires," by Herr G. Backmann, are both very effective *mor-*

*ceux de salon*; while "Canzona," of Joachim Raff, transcribed by Herr Oscar Wagner, will be welcomed by many in its new form.

Messrs. Stanley Lucas, Weber, & Co. have sent us two songs, differing widely in character, but each of them good in its way. M. Ch. Gounod's setting of Lord Tennyson's words "Ring out, wild bells," is another contribution from the hand of the great composer to his series of Christmas songs, of which it is enough to say that the music is worthy of the beautiful words to which it is set. To descend from the sublime to the ridiculous, Miss E. Josephine Troup has, with much success, made musical the interesting conversation recorded by Mr. Edward Lear between "Mister Daddy Longlegs and Mr. Floppy Fly," in which we are told that "One never more could go to Court, Because his legs have grown too short. The other cannot sing a song, Because his legs have grown too long," reasons which are doubtless as good as can be found to account for the respective failures. The same publishers send us also the Fourth Tarantella, by Mr. Walter Macfarren, a brilliant piece of pianoforte music, which will repay study. "Puck," by Mr. W. Chalmers Masters (Messrs. J. B. Cramer & Co.), is the work of a careful musician, and will be found to be a spritely fairy caprice for the pianoforte, and a very pleasing and artistic production.

From Messrs. J. & W. Chester, of Brighton, we have two songs by Herr B. Lütgen, entitled "May Breezes" and "Call me over the Mountains, Love," both charming songs, of which we may say that the former is perhaps more to our taste than the latter; and "The Daisy," by Mr. Frank Austin, a pleasing ballad upon a humble subject. Of pianoforte music from these publishers we have "Le Tambourin," "Deuxième Mazurka," and "Souvenir d'un Bal," from the pen of the popular composer M. Henri Logé, all effective *morceaux de salon*; "The Minstrel's Harp," a brilliant piece, by Mr. Farley Newman; a clever and characteristic "Mazurka," by Herr Otto Schweizer; a vivacious "Jeu d'Esprit," in polka form, by Mr. H. C. Burnham; and a "Valse de Salon," by Mr. Frank Austin. "Delizia" waltzes, by Mr. A. A. Home, and "La Jeunesse Polka," by Aigrette, are pretty pieces of dance-music. "Parting Words," by Mr. Alfred H. Digby (Weekes & Co.), is an effective drawing-room song of considerable merit.

The fifth book of "The Vesper Voluntaries," by Mr. Arthur J. Greenish, comes to us from Messrs. Orsborn & Tuckwood. They are a set of short pieces suitable for the organ, harmonium, or American organ, which will be found very useful for the purpose for which they are written, devoid of any extraordinary difficulty, melodious, and artistic. Signor Ciro Pinsuti's "Unseen Singers" is another of those graceful songs which he has the happy faculty of producing; and Mr. Berthold Tours's "At Prayers" and "The Orphan's Prayer," though somewhat serious, are both worthy of this popular composer's hand. "The Realm of Bliss," by Mr. Arthur Briscoe, appears, according to the title-page, to have been "sung with applause" by some dozen singers, and requires no further commendation from us; and Mr. Vernon Rey's two songs, "Only a Memory" and "Sissie," are ballads of merit above the average; while "Doctor Flynn," by Mr. J. E. Webster, sets forth the Doctor's courtship with "Widow Brown," which, though perhaps somewhat vulgar, is comic, and will please those who like this sort of thing. Signor E. Boggetti has written an "Intermezzo" of much interest, and has made a transcription of Mr. Vernon Rey's song, "Rub-a-dub-dub," for the pianoforte, with some success; and M. Henri Stanislaus has given us a picture of "Glistening Waves" in a brilliant and effective style. "Cœur Fidèle Valse," by Mr. Fabian Rose, and "Couleur de Rose" Valse, by Mr. E. Drevinski, complete Messrs. Orsborn & Tuckwood's budget.

A song of more than ordinary merit is "Left," by Mr. R. J. Thompson, published by Mr. C. Jeffreys, who sends also "Clytie Waltz," by Miss May Ostlere, and "The Foot Warmer Polka," by Mr. R. J. Thompson.

A caprice impromptu, by M. Jules Phillipot (Messrs. A. Hammond & Co.), entitled "La Péri," deserves mention as an artistic work of considerable originality, and Herr Ch. Neustedt's two pieces, "La Caressante" and "Manon," are both good specimens of this prolific writer's work; while "Dado Dance," by Mr. H. Elliot Lath, which is termed "Entr'acte caprice," is a graceful production in gavotte measure. Mr. E. H. Prout's "Elsie Waltzes" from the same publisher are good dance music. Messrs. E. Ascherberger & Co. send us "The Polly" Quadrille, Lancers, and Waltz on airs from Mr. E. Solomon's comic opera of that name.

#### FRENCH LITERATURE.

DR. FÖRSTER'S publication of the famous French sermons of St. Bernard (1) puts them for the first time in a full and exact edition into the hands of students of old French. As is known to such students, the literary interest of these sermons turns to a great extent, if not wholly, on the question whether they are original or translated. And here Herr Förster has not much to add to the arguments which numerous authorities, from Mabillon to Herr Kutschera, have already handled and rehandled. It is needless to say that the date of the actual manuscript does not settle the question, inasmuch as even if the Saint had written in French, this particular manuscript need not be anything but a

(1) *Li Sermon Saint Berhart*. Zum ersten mal vollständig herausgegeben von Wendelin Förster. Erlangen: Deichert.