

1854

Another Virginian Law Book

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Repository Citation

Minor, Lucian, "Another Virginian Law Book" (1854). *Faculty Publications*. 1297.
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ANOTHER VIRGINIAN LAW BOOK.

We feel authorized by the facts to congratulate our people and our home publishers upon the number and character of the works recently issued which we can claim as Virginian;—works both original, and republished with various emendations and improvements. To this domestic list proper, we add one whose author, though now a resident of another State, once adorned the bar, the Senate and the society of this his native State. We allude to “Thornton on Conveyancing,” by James Bankhead Thornton, of Memphis, Tennessee.

It is a Digest of the Conveyancing, Testamentary, and Registry Laws of all the States of the Union; embracing references to the leading decisions of the supreme judiciary of each State upon these subjects. It contains forms of acknowledgment, probate, relinquishment, &c., required and used in each State. The volume opens with a neat and graceful dedication to Judge John Y. Mason, now United States Minister, near the imperial Court of France, followed by modest and independent prefaces, describing the nature and scope of the work, and a succinct and satisfactory Treatise on the General Rules relating to the nature, execution and operation of Deeds and Wills. There are also in an appendix the most approved general forms of Deeds and Wills. In the body of the work, the States are arranged in alphabetical order. The Laws of Congress

prescribing the mode for authenticating Records are also given. So that it is emphatically what it professes to be, a practical Manual and guide for lawyers, public officers and men of business; and is copious without being voluminous. Its utility has been fully proven by the success of the first edition. We unfalteringly recommended the work when that success had yet to be won. In its present improved and enlarged edition, we commend it still more strongly. One of the marked improvements made by the author is in the learned and interesting section relating to the laws and modes of procedure in the State of Louisiana.

In the preparation of such a work, there are inherent difficulties, which scarcely any amount of painstaking can entirely surmount. For nothing but extensive practice can render one perfectly familiar with all the points of Law embraced in so comprehensive a plan; and no author can thus acquire a practical knowledge of the laws of more than one, or, at most, two or three States. But whilst the very wide scope of the enterprise makes it difficult, it at the same time makes it valuable and useful; and the members of the profession in the various States should note and in a spirit of friendly courtesy, by private communications, or frank criticisms through the public press, point out such deficiencies and errors as they may detect, that the work may be brought nearer and nearer to perfection. No one laborer in so vast a field can escape imperfections, and subsequent compilers may even be indebted to Mr. Thornton for their ability to avoid some inaccuracies, when if they had been the first explorers, they might have fallen into the same or greater.

The volume is now presented to the public in the elegant style of Little, Brown & Co.

M.