THE READER.

31 January, 1892.

The public are already familiar with the weekly weather bulletins
which he has conducted for several years, and which are now published in this newspaper, and with the regular round of weather news and meteorological observations which he submits to the Board of Trade. All these communications are exami-
ned and reduced under Admiral Fitzroy's superintendence, and no bulletin is published until after his forecast of probable weather has been submitted to the Board.

In the course of his forecast, however, it is discovered that the Board has been misled by the appearance of a cold front, which is expected to pass over the north of England during the night, and that a strong easterly wind will prevail for several days. The forecast is therefore revised, and the expected easterly wind is expected to continue for several days, with a possibility of a storm on the coast of Northumberland.

In the meantime, the public are reminded that the weather is still uncertain, and that precautions should be taken against possible bad weather.


There is no science that has enlisted in its service so large a variety of intellect and temperament as Meteorology. It affords an easy introduction to mathematics such as Herschel and Arago; it attracts investigators of physical science, as Kuenen and Galtier; it appeals to the curiosity of navigators, as Cook and Keith; to aeronauts and mountaineers; to medical men, in their sanitary reports; and to the journalists, in their daily reports. If we mean a mere amusement, it is also served by a class of scientific men, who, as a consequence of their occupation, are often exposed to the elements, and are therefore in daily contact with them. If we mean a mere amusement, it is also served by a class of scientific men, who, as a consequence of their occupation, are often exposed to the elements, and are therefore in daily contact with them.

The weather-book is essentially a doxology; that is, to say, it asserts the existence of a power that can adduce the evidence by which he himself was originally induced to recognize their existence. If we mean a mere amusement, it is also served by a class of scientific men, who, as a consequence of their occupation, are often exposed to the elements, and are therefore in daily contact with them.

In the present instance, the reader is tempted to start objections in argument, in which case no amount of argument will be of any avail in carrying conviction. Again, there is a serious obstacle to the very just and substantial conclusions in the want of precision common to all his statements. To take a case at random, for the sake of example, he says: "The barometer generally fails for a week or so before the south-easterly wind is usually dry with fine weather." This is generally true, and "usually" has such vagueness of meaning that no meteorologists will agree in their interpretation of the passage. If he had said: "When the barometer falls it indicates a south-easterly wind in four cases out of five: in the fifth case it is too weak and the south-easterly wind will be dry and the weather fine," we should have had a definite and valuable piece of information. But he does not, and the general result is that we cannot understand the weather from his book.

Qualitative epigraphs of indeterminate force are so interwoven with all his practical assertions, that we cannot observe two important and original passages in the entire book, in which he commits himself absolutely to the existence of facts. For instance: "The phenomena of fine weather with a low glass occur, however, rarely; but they are always preceded by a disturbance in the barometer," and again: "The changes of wind or weather are a gradual process before they take place, the longer the period the more will it last; and conversely, the shorter the warning the less time whatever causes the warning, whether
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31st January

In my little book a very minor matter of an
appropriate "inaccurate" or "indefinite" was
noted. Those who care to take up the matter,
or to be an apologist of the doctrine (Populus vulg.)
"deci et decidatur!" And would he be
inaccurate? It is not to be disputed that the
Talmud perpetuated the imagination that
his ravos were intended to shave, resent any
attempt on his part to free himself with undue
credulity in his own mots? We
know not—but one thing is certain—books of
this class were written for a man to clear
away the legal difficulties of life, without
ravos made to sell maw the stubble of a
night's great work.

The best written treatise can but convey to
a careful reader some general knowledge
respecting the subject handled. The practi
cian knows that the moment he comes to
deal with the facts of any particular case, be it
in engineering, medicine, law, or any other
art, his books always fall short of what
he requires. The particular combination
of circumstances, with the particular mode
of treating them, is nowhere recorded, even
in the most elaborate chronicles of the
labours of others. How absurd, then, to
suggest that what the man skilled in his art
seeks in vain throughout the wide range of
all that has been previously written, may be
found preserved and available for the practical
guidance of the multitude in the compass of
a few pages!

In making these remarks we would
perhaps despise the importance of the
acquisition of practical knowledge to those
who are not lawyers. It is difficult to overrate the advantages
of its acquisition. Indeed, our experience has
been said, by persons well acquainted
with foreign countries, to be behindhand in
this respect. It is asserted, for instance,
that a Frenchman commonly knows more of
his French law than his English equal in
society does of the law of his own country.
If the fact be so, there is a ready apology
for learning the language
Tide of revolution swept away in France the
ancient civil law, reared in various
guises, compounded of various elements, and
only to be understood by careful study of its
history, and erected in its stead a comparatively
simple edifice. An intelligent Frenchman
may, for the purpose of general instruction,
acquire almost all he needs to know from a
pocket edition of the French Code. The
Englishman who wishes to gain some
knowledge of the laws of his own country must
submit to a much greater labour and cost.
He must, if only to qualify as a well-informed gentleman,
learn his law historically, tracing step by
step the changes between the laws by
which he is governed, and the history of
his country. At any rate, his education
must be more neglected if he has
not read to useful purpose the Common-
tories of Blackstone, or some other equi-
valent work. It is possible to overrate the
advantages to the general public, when
a great lawyer like Lord St. Leonards descends
from the bench, and attempts to instruct his
fellows countrymen in the fundamental prin-
ciples of those branches of law with which he
is thoroughly conversant. Nay, we would
say, there is no further step in that direction
for those who have sufficient energy and ability for the task, we
would especially advise a study of the
branches of law that are immediately connected with
their daily calling. For instance, the pity
man who should devote himself carefully to
the study of such a work as "Smith's
Parli.mentary Law," must assuredly have a
considerable advantage over his competitors,
provided, of course, his knowledge is tested
by experience. It is not the "little
knowledge" itself of the so often misappli
oned quotation which is dear to us, but the
taken confidence which it is apt to engender.

But if we turn now to the particular book
mentioned at the head of this article, we
may say with regret that neither in selection of
subjects nor in accuracy of execution does it
fulfill the promise of the prospectus, that of
"producing in a very condensed form the substance or cream of the law."
As respects selections, the author
has committed the grave error of including

EVERY MAN'S OWN LAWYER: A Handy
Book of the Principles of Law and Equity,
comprising the Rights and Wrongs of Individuals, Landlord and Tenant, Master and
Ex

On the occurrence of an event of any sort, the result of which is discernible by the
physical eye. What are people think of as "Every Man's own Engineer," or "Every Man's own
Builder," or even "Every Man's own Captain," would not the dull philosopher assert, as with a
downward glance at his own high-head, that the maxim
"et cetera, &c." may admit of a converse reading?

Nothing of all this seems to have occurred to the
"lawyer." With an unctuous spirit he traverses the whole
field of law and its Practice. Common Law, Bankruptcy,
Evidence, Ecclesiastical Court, Parish Law, are all touched upon; and the
reader, no doubt with the attractive title at the back

Even so accurate information could hardly be
in the possession of any of us. The
mention, if true, those portions of the
book which refer to the classification of
actions, matters of fact in law and
in equity, and to purely technical matters of
conveyancing. He must be truly endowed with
what is scarcely a talent, in order to
assert that upon those pages any book could save
the magic Half-mark, or even convey any useful instruction.

Passing, however, to the question of
accuracy of execution, as respects which we may
say that there is no need to discuss the
trustworthiness of the book, it should have been written not by a
barrister, but by four or five barristers,—it
is always so; in spite of any good
and occasionally accurate statement of
some of the subjects touched upon, more
especially those connected with the
common laws, such as Distress for Rent,
Master and Servant, Government and Tutors
(all, indeed, subjects upon which general
information may with the greatest advantage
be conveyed to the public), the compiler
must be accused of an amount of carlessness or
ignorance which is sufficiently apparent in the
ignorance of the enactment of the
Common Law Procedure Act of 1860. At page
29 we read "all-adil-faire dans cette galere" that the
write of
Elegit was established by the Statute of
Quia Emptoris, and that the
writes dates from the thirteenth Edward I., and
that the statute named was passed in the
eighteenth reign. At p. 100, we are informed,—"we ought probably to
apologise for writing on so technical a subject"—that "as to women married since
the Dower Act," the husband may bar wife's
dower (amongst other modes), "by
conveyance to use to bar dower," whereas
the mode here mentioned is only effective in respect to women married before the Act.
At p. 200 our "practical guide" intimates that if a married woman,
and her husband sues for it in the
Ecclesiastical Court, a Court of Equity will grant
an injunction, and that the fact being
that legacy suits in the Ecclesiastical Courts
have long been obsebted. At p. 213 we are told all about the
Commonal or Special, in ignorance of the
assumption of the ecclesiastical practice and
other years since; and at p. 216 we have a crooking
piece of ignorance in the statement that
"a Bill of Interpleader is one filed by one
of two or more persons who claim the same
thing"—the truth being that it is filed by the
stakeholder against conflicting claimants of
the same description.

As respects, indeed, some or most of the foregiving blunders, and others of the same
kind it is easy to say that the
purchasing public of this little book are one
penny the worse for them. We do, however,
ote errors of a grave kind, errors upon
people upon which it really is desirable that
she, if informed at all, should be well
informed. Thus at page 154 we read the
following passage—"If a woman who
has bastard children must support the children as well as the mother, for her
rights depend upon the additional
fact that he is not bound to maintain her legitimate offering
in marriage." Whence, so long ago as by the
Law of 1831 (see 4 and 5 William IV, cap. 76, sec. 57) the
burden of proof of the legitimacy of the
spring of a widow was thrown on the
second husband. Again, at the same page,
upon a point of some interest to persons
possessed of real estate, the author (in

THIS is one of a very pernicious class of
books. The writer tells us in his pre-
face that his book is "intended to give every
sufficient understanding of the smallest
possible cost, of placing upon his book-shelves
a key to the laws of his country; and, as far
as in him lies, to dispense with
democratic professional assistance; which
(coal-medical advice) is sometimes a necessary evil.
Thou mightest, we expect, state true, he says,
"occurring in every-day life, among people of
all classes, in which points of law arise, as to
their own, their property, pursuit, or
transaction, which apparently cannot do without
reference to an attorney, and such
reference assuredly leads to expense; whereas
most of such questions may be answered
without professional assistance by first
turning to the index of the present work, and
then consulting the book itself at the
inquirer will be referred.

In other
words, we are to believe that a small
mastering of information, at the smallest
of points a large subject may be made
available by such a practical guide.

Let this be alleged of any art, the results of which are discernible by the
physical eye. What are people think of as "Every Man's own
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