

MR. BONNEY ON UNIFORMITY IN JUDICIAL PRACTICE.

The Hon. Charles Carroll Bonney contributes to the present number of the *American Law Review* (Vol. XXXVI., No. 3, pp. 401 et seq.) an article on "A Uniform Judicial Practice" from which, on account of its far-reaching importance, we extract the following sentences: Mr. Bonney says that "one of the most serious obstacles to a satisfactory administration of justice throughout the United States, has always been the multiform modes of proceeding which prevail in the various courts. . . . But while the national government enormously increases the difficulties of the administration of justice in actions at law, by providing that all proceedings in the Federal courts in such actions shall conform to the like proceedings in the State courts, the practice and pleadings in cases in equity in the Federal courts have been left to the control of the Supreme Court of the United States through a set of rules prescribing the procedure in each case."

Now, Mr. Bonney proposes "to substitute the admirable system of pleading and practice which prevails in the national courts in equity for the vexatious and costly procedure of the common law courts, in actions at law. The ease with which the change could be effected should encourage a speedy attempt to realise it. It is only necessary, in the first instance, for Congress to enact a short statute providing that, from and after the date of its passage and approval, all civil suits, actions and proceedings, including all actions at common law, may, and after the expiration of one year from said date, shall be conducted according to the forms of pleading and practice in equity in the courts of the United States, as such rules now exist or may hereafter be established or modified by the Supreme Court of the nation. For a year the proposed change of procedure would be optional, and after that compulsory, in the Federal courts, and would depend solely upon its merits for adoption in the several States."

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Bonney says: "If it shall ever come to pass that a uniform judicial practice shall prevail throughout the Union, in the State as well as the Federal Courts, it will be a matter of surprise that it required so long to effect a reform productive of immense benefits to all concerned, and free from any disadvantages worthy to be named."

LITERARY ACTIVITY IN CEYLON.

We are in receipt of three works of mediæval Buddhist literature, edited in Ceylon. The first is the *Anuruddha-çataka*, by Anuruddha Mahâ Thero, of Anurâdhapura, the ancient capital of Ceylon, who lived in the twelfth Christian century. The book is edited by the Thero Silakkhandho of Ceylon, and published by the Buddhist Text Society at Calcutta in 1899.

The second work is the famous *Jinâlamkāra*, a twelfth-century poem on Buddha, written by Buddharakkhito, Chief Elder (i. e., Mahâ Thero) of Ceylon. It is now translated from Pâli into Singhalese by W. Dipankaro and B. Dhammapâlo, pupils of the Elder Silakkhandho just mentioned. This publication appeared at Galle, 1900.

The third work is the *Vidagdha Mukha Maṇḍana*, a Sanskrit poem of about the seventh century, by Çrî Dharmadâso of Kanauj, the once famous literary city in the valley of the Ganges. It was written during the Buddhist period of India, when the Chinese pilgrim Yuan Chwang visited the land. It is now translated into