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Review of "Handbook of the Law of Contracts," By William Clark, Jr.

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For the general reader, as well as for the lawyer, "The two articles by Charles Francis Adams, and that by Henry, . . . are remarkable for the force of their searching criticism. They are even more remarkable for their courage; for they were written and published, not years afterward, but while the action was in progress, and while all the persons whose honor was impugned were alive and powerful." The setting is appropriate for the modern reader in that it covers the "Gold Conspiracy" and the terrible collapse of the market on "Black Friday" of 1869. It is interesting to note that Henry Adams took his article on the "Gold Conspiracy" to England "for any expression about America in an English review attracted ten times the attention in America that the same article would attract in the *North American.*" To his surprise he found the *Edinburgh Review* and the *Quarterly* refused to publish it. "As usual, when an ally was needed, the American was driven into the arms of the radicals," and it was published by the *Westminster Review*, and "it was instantly pirated on a great scale."

And Mr. Hicks has rendered a service in gathering these articles together, with his excellent introduction and choice selection of what turns out to be both of timely interest and distinct benefit to the profession.

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HANDBOOK OF THE LAW OF CONTRACTS, by *William L. Clark, Jr.* Fourth Edition, by Archibald H. Throckmorton and Alvin C. Brightman. St. Paul: West Publishing Co., 1931. Pp. xv, 858.

During the past generation in this country, Clark on *Contracts* undoubtedly has been the most widely used students' textbook on the subject of contracts. The first edition appeared in 1894. It was admittedly based upon the analysis made popular in England by the earlier work of Sir William Anson. The present edition has been carefully prepared. The original text is generally retained. The additions for the most part are in the footnotes. Many new cases are cited. Frequent references are made to the American Law Institute's Restatement, and also the Uniform Sale of Goods Act. The text of the book is presented in a group of black letter propositions each followed by a commentary in ordinary type. In the footnotes about 14,000 cases are cited. Chapters on Capacity of Parties and Quasi Contracts extend the scope of the subject somewhat beyond the course in contracts as ordinarily treated in modern law schools. However, from the viewpoint of a student this is an advantage rather than a drawback. For collateral reading in connection with a casebook, or as a book of reference for practitioners, this new edition of Clark on *Contracts* is a work of real value.

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