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Review of “The Civil Law and the Church,” By Charles Lincoln

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in the construction of something very different—which perhaps will bear the same name.


Like many other expressions in the terminology of Anglo-American jurisprudence, "civil law" has several distinct meanings. As used in Mr. Lincoln's book the expression enjoys its broadest meaning and indicates the actual law of the state as contrasted with the internal regulations of voluntary societies, especially those important voluntary societies known as churches. This well-produced volume of more than one thousand pages is not offered as anything other than a practical hand-book for lawyers and judges. Mr. Lincoln has adopted the traditional form of digests. Topics to the number of 145 have been selected and arranged alphabetically, from "Actions" to "Young Men's Christian Association." Most of these topics are subdivided, the subdivisions also being arranged alphabetically. An Index proves helpful in furthering the accessibility of the contents. Mr. Lincoln's book is unquestionably the most complete and serviceable guide to modern case-law in English-speaking countries affecting the rights and liabilities of religious organizations. No fewer than 1650 cases from the appellate courts of the United States, England, and Canada are digested.