

Judges Iniquis. The English Edition of this (London 1646) differs very much from the French; and yet the translator pretends that he kept himself close to the words and meaning of his author.

Of the Excellent French Manual of the English Law which bears the name of Britton is usually ascribed to John de Britton Bishop of Hereford. Others ascribe it upon a Judge of that name about the same time. Mr. Tolson (Dissert. ad Glots. cap. 1. § 2. cap. 2. § 3) believes that Britton and Broton were intended for the same person; the latter being given to a treatise, which indeed is no more than an abstract of another better known by the former. He allows the son man to be an Anonimus Epitomizer some time in the reign of Edward 1. out of whose laws several things are added, which are not nor could be Bractons. Doctor Nelson thinks that the true writer of this abstract was that John Broton who was one of the Kings Justices (together with Ralph and Roger de Penham) in the first year of Edward 2. E. Wingates Edition is justly commended for its care and judgement of the Publisher. The language is the true old French in the thirteenth Century, and differs considerably from that of Littleton in the fifteenth. The whole Book like Justinians Institutes runs in the Name and stile of the King himself, as a summary of all the Laws then in force, both in the Kingdom of England and Dominion of Ireland.

70) Sir Thomas Littleton one of the Justices of the Common Pleas in the reign of Edward fourth who made him a Knight of the Bath, wrote a book of Tenures which is in every bodys hand and had that pretence to the profession of study of the Municipal laws of England, and had been more frequently printed, than any other Law book whatsoever. The a great many of these Editions are very faulty, and cautiously to be used.

used. A great many particulars of his Common Law are now altered by Acts of Parliament, and others are disguised and grown obsolete. For Example, the whole story about Gifts in frank Marriage &c. serves only for moot Cases, affording some pretty nice questions in Law for the Exercise of Youth in the Inns of Court. Some passages which may here seem a little Dark (by reason of the brevity to which the Authors Method obliged him) may be had more largely Explained in the Year Books of Edward the fourth; Whom we have frequently Littletons opinion in several intricate Cases, and the Reasons that confirmed it. Others are more amply treated on by Bracton and Broton; which in the Main have been Epitomized by this Writer. Of this Book G. Hottoman (Comment. de Verb. Significat. Verb. Pronomin) gives this unjust Confusion. Ita Incondite Absurde scripsit, ut facile apparet Verum esse quod Petrus Virgilius in Historia Anglicana scripsit, scilicet titulum in eo libro cum Malitia & Calumniandi studio Portare. But Bamboon (who knew the Value of this book better than Hottoman who it seems had but read it superficially) says more justly, that the Littletons tenures the Students of the Common Law are no less beholden than the Civilians are to Justinians Institutes. Yet the Treatise had obtained that Credit, and the Authors Judgement had been reputed so infallible, that Gods proph. as Just. part 1. p. 57. for Henry Robert and others of King James the first. of England Judges would not suffer his opinion to be argued: And he who best understood him (Bo. he. ibid.) gives this Character of his performance as lowering as it is possible to raise it. It is the most perfect and absolute Work says he, that ever was writ in any humane Science, and they that Endeavour to disgrace the Author do not understand him. v. d. infra pag. 119

8) Lord Chief Justice Cohes Institutes, or more properly Translation and Comments upon Littleton

The English edition of this Law is not much different from the French one.