

# Cases on Principal and Agent and Master and Servant

C. Z.

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## BOOK REVIEWS

*Cases on Principal and Agent and Master and Servant.* American Casebook Series. By Edwin C. Goddard. Second Edition. St. Paul: West Publishing Co. 1925. pp. xxi, 944.

In some respects, this is a new book rather than a second edition. This fact is apparent from the title. The title in the edition of 1914 was *Cases on Principal and Agent*. In the title to the present edition, the words "and Master and Servant" are added. Of necessity, the first edition could not wholly avoid cases dealing with the representative as a servant rather than as an agent. The present edition frankly covers both relationships under the general title of constituent and representative. More purely master and servant cases are reprinted than in the edition of 1914. Though a number of the pure master agency cases used in the first edition have been omitted, the bulk of the book has increased from 856 to 944 pages.

This feature is to be regretted from the viewpoint of both the teacher and the student. It is an utter impossibility to cover all this material in the time which is ordinarily allotted to the subject. Why, then, impose upon the instructor the task of selection and on the students, the added expense of the book? Why not cut such a volume down to a size which can be handled effectively? A due recognition of one's limitations whether of time, of ability, or of student capacity is essential to success. The author, of course, does not stand alone in this regard. There are very few case books which, to some extent, are not open to this same criticism. Yet the tendency to overgrown bulk is so marked as to require a check before the point of bare absurdity is reached. Whether this bulk is due to the desire of the publisher who figures that a small book can command but a small price but requires an equal amount of advertising, or whether it is due to the ambition of the author to cover the subject, or whether it is due to a combination of both motives, it is rapidly assuming the proportions of a universal evil. Of course a certain amount of discretion must be allowed to each case book author. The writer of this review can only record his opinion that the present volume exceeds such discretion. Keedy's *Cases on Agency*, recently off the press, have compressed the cases to 822 pages of smaller size.

Turning to the more pleasant aspects of our subject, it is to be noticed that the table of contents, which in the first edition was an extensive and intensive analysis covering five closely printed pages, has been reduced to a scant two pages with many wide open spaces between the chapter headings. This is a decided improvement. Furnishing the student such an analysis brought the first edition too close to the essential nature of a textbook and upset the underlying principle on which teaching by the case book method is founded.

The writer of this review has taught Agency with the help of the first edition and is therefore, to some extent, familiar with the material in such first edition. He has not compared the second edition, case for case, but feels free to say that, except for its increased bulk, it is a very great improvement over the first edition and should speedily supercede it wherever such first edition has been in use.

C. Z.