perhaps he believed that it had been issued by some person or body of persons having power to make statements of law which should command the respect of the justices; but certainly he did not think that its very words were law as the very words of a statute would be law. Markham had disregarded them, and Littleton was ready to do the like.

Whether it be purely private work or no I will not take on me to decide; it may have been a document issued by the king to his serjeants, possibly to his judges, instructing them as to the king's views of his own rights (at every doubtful point it leans towards royal claims); but at least I think that we ought to agree with Littleton, *ceo ne poet estre dit come un statute*.

F. W. MAITLAND.

THE SUPPRESSION OF THE TALMUD BY POPE JOHN XXII.

My attention has been called by my friend Mr. Neubauer to a passage in a series of articles by Dr. H. Gross on the 'History of the Jews at Arles,' published in the 'Monatsschrift für Geschichte und Wissenschaft des Judenthums,' xxviii. (1879), in which he speaks of the burning of the Talmud as *durch ein päpstliches Decret vom 11. September 1319 für die Provence angeordnet* (p. 547), and cites in evidence 'Baronius, *Annales ecclesiastici*, tom. xv. p. 205, "Decret an der Erzbischof von Beziers."' The style of this prelate and the reference to Baronius at once excited my suspicion, since, as everyone knows, there never was an archbishop of Béziers and Baronius did not carry his annals beyond 1198. Dr. Gross evidently intended one of the latter's continuators, Bzovius or Raynaldus; and the only work, to my knowledge, which includes the year 1319 in its fifteenth volume is the *unpaged* edition of Raynaldus, published at Rome (vol. xv. bearing date 1652). Here, on the back of the last leaf of sheet T, under the year 1320, I find the brief in question.¹ It is addressed to the archbishop of Bourges (*archiepiscopo Bituricensi*), and enjoins him to take various measures for the extirpation of false doctrine throughout his province (*per vestras civitates et dioeceses*). In particular he is to order the Jews to deliver up all copies of the Talmud and its commentaries, and to have these books submitted to examination; such of them as should be found to contain blasphemies or errors are to be burned with fire. The decree thus has solely to do with the province of Bourges.² Had it been Béziers we should still have been some way distant from Provence; and I can only suggest that Dr. Gross confounded the 'province,' though

¹ It is in the standard edition of Raynaldus (ed. Mansi, Lucca, 1750), v. 137-141.

² Mr. H. C. Lea speaks as though it had a more general extension, *Hist. of the Inquis. of the Middle Ages* (1888), i. 556.

provincia does not occur in the document, with Provence. Lastly, as to the date, he has misread *II. non. septembris pontificat. nostri anno IV.* as 11 September, taking the Roman II for an Arabic 11, and seemingly passing by the *non.* as unintelligible. But *II. non.* is a known variant of *Prid. non.*, and the date is 4 September. By this result we are enabled to correct his year. The fourth year of John XXII ran from 5 Sept. 1319 and ended on this very day, 4 Sept. 1320,³ the year under which it is properly given by Raynaldus.

REGINALD L. POOLE.

³ Comte de Mas Latrie, *Treſor de Chronologie*, p. 1128b.