

into a corpus called the *Liber Statutorum*. Dalmatian law is based on a Roman substratum, with additions from local statutes, Slavonic customs, and certain commercial and maritime statutes. The contents of the new code are summed up in the following mnemonic distich:—

“ Elligit officia comes civitatis in *primo*,
 Officiis fides datur sacrata *secundo*,
 Causa litis sequitur *terno* sub ordine libri,
 Conjugis inscripsit *quarto* dotalia bona,
 Ordo datur domibus *quinto* plateasque divisit,
 Judicis officium crimen exposit in *sexto*,
Septimo navigii additur, et mercium ordo,
Octavo in codice diversa colligit auctor.”

The introduction, which is full of generalities and abstract ideas, after the manner of the time, states that the object of the code was to collect the statutes of the Ragusan Republic, “to harmonise the discrepancies, suppress superfluities, supply omissions, explain obscurities, so that nothing superfluous, obscure, or captious should remain in them.” The first book defines the position, rights, and duties of the count and of the other chief functionaries of the Republic, and deals with sundry financial matters. The second book contains the *formule* and oaths of each officer of State; and in cap. xxiv. the salaries of the Ragusan envoys¹ to foreign countries were fixed. The third embodies the law of procedure and the judicial system, and sets forth the rules for the *stanico*, or international court of arbitration, to which we have already alluded. This institution was

¹ For the position and importance of these envoys see Chap. III.