

PREFACE TO FIFTH EDITION

THIS little manual was first of its kind to furnish to the public a compendium—simple and concise, as well as accurate, in its style and arrangement—of the most important provisions of the laws of all the Provinces of Canada in which the general principles of English law prevail. It is printed as a ready reference guide for commercial men, farmers, mechanics and others in the every day business transactions of life. It does not pretend to make its readers lawyers, or to enable them to dispense entirely with the advice of the legal profession when matters of real difficulty arise. But it does pretend to furnish, upon the subjects of which it treats, information which will enable an ordinary business man to solve for himself a large proportion of the legal questions which are met with in his business, without the necessity of his applying to a lawyer.

Many persons have neither the time nor the money to refer to a solicitor every day for advice. Cases frequently arise in which he must of necessity make up his mind and act, before he can possibly have an opportunity to consult a lawyer. A work like the present, ready at hand, easy of reference, may be found to save each year to its owner, ten times its cost.

The rapid development of the Western provinces and consequent growth of commercial law, has rendered necessary the appearance of a new edition. It has also of necessity added very considerably to the volume of material, making the present edition about 100 pages larger than any previous one.

Of the immense value of a well-prepared manual of this nature, there can be no question. Wrongs are suffered and