

Q.C., to impeach Mr. Justice Drummond. This petition, however, was withdrawn in accordance with the wish of the majority of the House, in consequence of certain charges in it being supposed to cast reflections on the whole Court of Queen's Bench.

LAW REFORM IN ENGLAND.

Under the title, "A few Observations respectfully submitted to the Royal Judicature Commission," Mr. F. S. Hull has published the following suggestions in regard to law reform. It will be noticed that nearly all the changes suggested are in actual practice in Lower Canada:—

1. I see no reason why the courts of common law and equity may not be fused into one, all questions of pure administration being worked out in the office of the registrar (or master or clerk), and all matters requiring judicial inquiry, or the verdict of a jury, being sent into open court, on issues raised in the manner after-mentioned.

2. I see no reason why bankruptcy should not be joined with law and equity, provided the functions of the court be limited to those of administration only.

3. I think that Admiralty cases require to be submitted to a judge and jury (or substitute for a jury) of a special training.

4. The business of Probate seems to me to be purely administrative, unless some dispute arises, and then there seems to be no difficulty in bringing the disputed issue to a hearing in the manner after-mentioned.

5. Suits should be commenced in all the courts by a written statement, setting out all the material facts on which the plaintiff rests his case; and the defendant should set out his defence in like manner.

6. Experience shows that one practitioner sets out a plain story even of complex matters, admitting the truth of adverse facts he believes to be true, whilst other practitioners, in a long and confused statement, distort the facts of a very simple story. This grievance can only be remedied by the infliction of costs.

7. A large discretion should, therefore, rest with the judge and taxing master, enabling them, whatever may be the result of the suit, to make the costs fall on the party who shall assert the truth of a material fact which turns out to be untrue, or who puts the other side to the proof of a fact the truth of which is known to the party requiring the proof.

8. I think this course of proceeding may be adopted in all the courts.

9. The real tussle would thus be the preparation of the case of each side on paper, the taxing master visiting the defaulter with costs.

10. I see no reason why various circles of business, including a bar, should not be created in districts having judges visiting these districts in circuit, and having the appeals heard in London at set terms in the year.

11. I think the distinction at present existing between the bar and the attorneys should be broken down, and the American system adopted, namely, that an attorney should be permitted to enter the ranks of the bar on his passing examinations showing that he is competent to act as an advocate. And if so competent, I see no reason why he should cease to practise as an attorney. An advocate so circumstanced would be more strictly bound to keep within the truth of his case. I see no reason why the present members of the bar should not practise as attorneys without any further examination.

STATUTES OF QUEBEC—31 VIC.

The statutes passed in the first session of the legislature of the Province of Quebec form a volume of 167 pages, comprising 59 Acts.

Cap. I. An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money required for defraying certain expenses of the civil Government, for the 18 months ending 31st Dec., 1868, and for other purposes connected with the public service.

Cap. II. An Act to amend certain Acts therein mentioned, and further to provide in reference to stamps. Sec. 6 enacts that