existing orders, the judges have taken care that they shall not be understood as intending to unsettle or disturb the rules of practice unnecessarily, and accordingly we find the second order providing that the abrogation before spoken of "shall not affect any practice of the Court * * * which originated in or was sanctioned by any of the orders hereby abrogated, except so far as the same may be inconsistent with anything hereinafter contained."

A number of useful and sensible changes have been made; much circumlocution has been got rid of; the length and consequent expense of some proceedings has been reduced, and a more simple plan of procedure in several cases adopted. Thus we find the old, unnecessary and practically inconvenient system of transmitting answers for filing, done away with; one short form of jurat substituted for the various prolix forms which had to be adopted when an answer or affidavit was sworn to; præcipe decrees in mortgage cases, which were seven folios in length, now scarcely extend to three; and the issuing of them in certain cases is entrusted to the Deputy Registrars, and final orders for sale or foreclosure are reduced to a minimum of verbiage. Formerly an order for committal for contempt for non-production of documents in the office of the Registrar or of a Deputy Registrar, could not be obtained except on personal service of the notice of motion: it is now sufficient, in case of non-production in the office of the Clerk of Records and Writs, to serve the solicitor of the defaulting party, if he has one, with the notice to commit; but it is questionable whether, in case of non-production in the office of a Deputy Registrar, personal service of the notice to commit is not still necessary. In addition to the remedy by committal for non-production, a plaintiff may now move to take the bill *pro confesso* against the defaulting defendant, and a defendant may move to dismiss the bill of a plaintiff who has neglected to produce. The business of the various Court days has been regulated in a different manner, and a new mode of signing, entering and issuing orders made in Chambers instituted. An office new in our Court of Chancery—that of Clerk of Records and Writs—has been created, and a new procedure in alimony suits introduced.

Nor has the important matter of fees escaped attention. The sheriffs have been liberally provided for by giving to them the service of all papers requiring personal service on parties within the jurisdiction, and providing that their mileage fees shall be paid before they can be allowed on taxation, as has long been the practice at common law. In a few instances an allowance has been made to solicitors for work which it was well understood they were constantly obliged to do, but for which the tariff did not warrant any change; but for the greater part, solicitors' fees have been left as they were.

We have thus briefly indicated a few of the changes introduced, though more remain to be noticed, did our space permit. In conclusion we think we may fairly say that the labours of the Judges and of their Secretary have proved a great boon to practitioners, and one which they must thoroughly appreciate. Neither the Judges nor the Secretary can be said to have too much spare time on their hands, and the undertaking and accomplishment of the work of consolidation and revision, in addition to their other duties, must have been no light task. The generally satisfactory manner in which the Consolidated Orders have so far worked in practice, proves how thoroughly the task has been executed; and if we might be permitted to offer an humble suggestion, it would be, that time should now be given to allow something of a settled practice to grow up under the orders *as they stand*, to be moulded by the care, experience and intelligence of those who have accomplished so good a work.

## LEGISLATION.

Some remarks which lately fell from a learned Judge—no mean authority in such matters, and himself a careful, far-seeing lawmaker—are somewhat appropriate, in connection with the approaching session of the local Parliament. In remarking upon the confusion arising from the frequent passing of amending acts, and the difficulty in construing their often discordant provisions, he contrasted the difference between the mode of effecting legal reforms in England and in this country. There, the general practice was to give the law as it stood a fair trial, of sufficient length to ascertain its defects, and then to pass an act which should in itself remedy those defects.