

PREFACE

IN presenting to the public a work of this nature, it seems to the Editor that a word or two of introduction or preface is all that is required. In turning over the leaves of this volume and seeing portrayed thereon the features of some of the members of the Bench and Bar of the Province of Quebec, who have helped to make so justly famous the legal system of this Province, both as regards the framing of its laws and their administration, everyone must feel that the purpose and need of the work are self-explanatory.

In our Province we can boast of a system of civil law directly descended from the great body of the Roman Law as compiled by the great Roman jurists. This law has come down to us through French channels, and into the great stream have flowed numerous small tributaries in the way of amendments and alterations, principally the work of the celebrated French authors, and it has finally been codified and put in its present condition by a commission appointed by our own Provincial Government, which completed its labours in the year 1866. In addition to this splendid Civil law we have practically the English system of Commercial and Criminal law, and therefore we have in the Province of Quebec the very best work of the great jurists of both France and England.

Although our law is not a fabric of decisions and precedents to the same extent as the English law, nevertheless the jurisprudence of our Courts has a great in-