

It may be not too much to hope that the selection would be made in the proper spirit.

I shall now, with your kind permission, refer briefly to a number of points upon which the work of your society might in the first instance proceed. This is not intended to be at all exhaustive but is merely a collection of suggestions which have occurred to me within the past weeks in thinking over this subject. They vary of course in their importance, but will, at all events, form a basis for the more serious and attentive consideration of others better qualified.

1. THE LANGUAGE OF THE CODE.

The English of the present Code is slovenly and the translation from the French has been badly done in many cases. This fact has been commented upon both at home and abroad, and in a recent book entitled "My Colonial Experiences," Sir William DesVœux, formerly the governor of St. Lucia in the West India Islands, calls attention to the difficulty experienced by him in adapting our Civil Code to the use of that Colony.

2. NUMBERING.

The code should be re-numbered, and in some cases re-arranged.

3. THE LAW OF SUCCESSIONS.

The bill introduced by the Hon. Mr. Perodeau would seem to point to the necessity for a general re-consideration of our law on the subject of successions. The Superior Court should have a summary jurisdiction in all matters connected with the estates of deceased persons. Testamentary executors should be subject to its control, and obliged to render periodical accounts. Judicial officers should have the right on demand, to inspect and audit estate accounts and the machinery for the speedy interpretation of wills should be increased. With respect to ab-intestate successions, the Court should have the right to appoint an Administrator on the petition of parties interested, especially in cases where the heirs at-law are absent or not accessible, and prompt action of a conservatory or other nature is necessary. The time-honored institution of the family council is an excellent one when composed of members of the interested family, but members of the Bar will smile when they recollect how seldom a family council is composed of deal members. How frequently have we seen family councils