

of parishes, and the building of churches, &c., in such parishes ;—but it has been submitted to the ecclesiastical authorities for their remarks, and has not yet been returned by them.

After giving the subject their most serious consideration, the commissioners have determined upon recommending the republication of such of the said acts and ordinances as shall remain in force at the end of the present session, with a proper index, in preference to any attempt at further consolidation, for which the present time does not appear to the commissioners to be favorable. Many and great changes may be expected to be made by the legislation of the present session ; others may be expected to be consequent upon them ; and from the unavoidable imperfections of every new law, it is possible they may require amendments which cannot now be foreseen. In a few years, when the changes consequent upon the altered circumstances of the Province and the establishment of new institutions shall have taken a fixed shape, and the statute law in force in Lower Canada shall contain a much greater body of enactments than it now does, its consolidation may be expedient and necessary, or, as the provisions on any subject become numerous, they may be consolidated in a single act ; at present the commissioners are convinced that any attempt at a general consolidation could only occasion needless expense and delay. The commissioners suggest that the work they recommend should be printed in the same form and type as the tables, so as to bind up with them ;—they would print none but laws of a public nature, and (with the exception hereafter mentioned) none but those in force, omitting such sections of the latter as may have been repealed or have expired, and all merely formal parts,—and they would print them in the order in which they stand in the second table, that is, in the order of their subjects ;—they would add an index, and a table of the acts printed, arranged in their chronological order and shewing the place in which each may be found ;—and they would make a supplement to the first table shewing the effect of the acts of the present session on those mentioned in it. The tables would then account for every law or portion of a law not printed in the new work, and would save all necessity for repeating the information in the latter ; and as this must have been done if they had not been published, their previous publication, while it is hoped it will have been of advantage to the legislature and to the public, will have involved no additional expense.

There are laws of which the effect will long remain, as to rights acquired under their provisions, after they have expired or been repealed. But the acts and ordinances of Lower Canada are not in general of this description ; and, though there may be others among those expired or repealed by which the rights of parties may possibly be affected in future, those relating to the registry of titles to and incumbrances upon lands in certain counties, are the only ones which the commissioners would think it necessary on this ground to reprint ; but these they think ought to be inserted.

Until the end of the session it will be impossible to estimate exactly the extent of the work the commissioners recommend, because they cannot say what acts and ordinances may be repealed by the acts of this session ;—but