

## INTRODUCTION.

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### *I.—Study of the Law.*

THERE are books, instructive and easy to be understood, written upon all sciences, even upon some that are useless. There are none in Canada which present in a familiar manner to its inhabitants the rules they are to follow in the application of the laws under which they live, and what they are to do in the intercourse they have with their debtors, their creditors, their neighbours, and how they ought to act when unjust demands, or insidious accusations, are made against them. Their ignorance in these matters compels them to commit their dearest interests into indifferent, mercenary, and sometimes deceitful hands, and to see by the eyes of others things that they ought to see with their own. Although a blind man may have nothing to fear from the one who leads him, it is natural to suppose that he would derive some advantage, at least some satisfaction, in seeing some of his road by his

### *II.—Criminal Law.*

With regard, in particular, to the criminal law, a knowledge of it is of the utmost importance to every one; for no rank or elevation in life, no lightness of heart, no circumspection of conduct, no prudence, should tempt any man to conclude that he may not, at some time or other, be deeply interested in discovering what is the criminal jurisprudence of his country.

The thorough comprehension of the laws, in all their minute distinctions, is perhaps too laborious a task for any one but a lawyer by profession; still an understanding of the leading principles is absolutely necessary to every one, so as to guard against gross and notorious impositions, and to be protected from committing acts of injustice in the decisions he is in the common course of life by law compelled to give. (1)

### *III.—Jurors.*

Almost every man is liable to be called upon to establish the rights, to estimate the injuries, to weigh the accusations, and sometimes to dispose of the lives of his

(1) Blackstone's Study of the Law, page 7, § 8.