

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

In the Prospectus issued for this work it was said that the Municipal Laws of Upper Canada are in importance second to none of the laws of the Province, and that every Municipal Corporation is a small Parliament, possessed of extensive but yet limited powers. It was then pointed out, that to ascertain in every case the existence or non-existence of a power—the nature of it—its precise limit and the mode in which it should be exercised is the object of all who are in any manner concerned in the administration of Municipal affairs.

When it is considered, that in the first instance these matters are to be determined by Municipal Councils, seldom containing Members versed in the laws, often acting without the aid of Professional advice, the importance of a guide becomes, as said in the Prospectus, manifest.

That guide it has been the aim of the Editor in the following pages to produce. He now proposes as briefly as possible to state upon what principles and in what manner he has performed his task.

The Legislature having, by the Consolidated Act of the present year, classified many Municipal enactments and repealed many of those that were effete or thereby rendered useless, the Editor, with the assistance of legal friends of greater experience than himself, in the first place applied himself to the work of expounding the Consolidated Act by the light of adjudged cases. This he did patiently and assiduously, noting latent difficulties and explaining as far as possible all difficulties of every kind that occurred to him. The result is a body of notes more elaborate than he contemplated when he began his labours. All decisions reported in time for his pen have been carefully epitomized and introduced into the notes so written.

Having in this manner continued his labours until the completion of the Consolidated Act, he next turned his attention to other Acts of a