

PREFACE.

THE object which the author has had constantly in view in compiling the present work is to give such a summary of the rules and principles which guide the practice and proceedings of the Parliament of Canada as will assist the parliamentarian and all others who may be concerned in the working of our legislative system. The rules and practice of the Parliament and the Legislatures of Canada are, for the most part, originally derived from the standing orders and usages of the Imperial Parliament, but, in the course of years, divergencies of practice have arisen, and a great many precedents have been made which seem to call for such a work as this. It has, moreover, been the writer's aim, not only to explain as fully as possible the rules and usages adopted in Canada, but also to give such copious references to the best authorities, and particularly to the works of Hatsell and May, as will enable the reader to compare Canadian with British procedure. A list of the authorities most frequently cited, with an explanation of the abbreviations used in citation, is appended for the convenience of those who may wish to follow out any question more in detail.

It seemed proper, in order to a clearer comprehension of the subject of the work, to preface it with an introductory chapter upon the origin and gradual development of parliamentary institutions in the Dominion.