

PREFACE.

A very cursory inspection of our law reports must lead to the conclusion that a very large part of litigation turns, more or less, upon the Statute Law, and it must be within the experience of most practitioners that they are very frequently called on to give advice upon questions arising upon Statute Law, without much time for research, and therefore it is obviously a matter of great importance to them, both for the purpose of litigation and of advising clients, to be able to refer with as little delay as possible to cases bearing upon the Statutes ; and yet it must be confessed that the search for cases on Statute Law is often a very difficult and laborious task.

Digests afford some assistance, but if it should happen that the head note of a reported case has mentioned the wrong section, or the wrong Statute, as I have found to be the case in several instances, that mistake is carried into the Digest, and the case as an authority on the Statute it really relates to, may be practically lost. For the latest instance, see *Rex v. Lewis*, 5 O.L.R. 509, where 1 Edw. 7 c. 12 is referred to in the head note as 1 Edw. 7 c. 19.

Then, as we all know, Statutes are often amended, revised, consolidated, and re-consolidated, and considerable extra labour is involved in searching for cases bearing on Statutes which have undergone this process. Few practitioners have the time or inclination, on each amendment or consolidation of a Statute, to bring forward the cases they may have previously noted. In this Index it will be found that that labour has been, to a great extent, saved those who may see fit to use it, and cases decided under Statutes which have been subsequently amended or consolidated will be found under the enactment as it now stands in the Statute book. This alone ought to make the Index extremely useful, but the large number of English cases which will be found included, must greatly enhance its value. For, while there is difficulty in searching for