

With this object in view, they went carefully through such of the laws in question as are still in force; and the result of their earnest consideration was—that there were few if any cases in which the power given them could be advantageously exercised. On many of the most important subjects, indeed, the laws were numerous and complicated, but it was yet evident that they could not be advantageously consolidated by the commissioners, partly because there were acts of the parliament of Canada, to which the powers of the commissioners did not extend, forming part of the statute law on the same subjects, and without embodying which the consolidation would have been imperfect and almost useless, or because from the nature of the subject, it was desirable that the law relating to it should be common to both sections of the Province,—and partly, because there were also laws on the same subjects or intimately connected with them, which were of very recent date, and could scarcely be considered as more than experimental, and it was generally understood to be probable that changes so extensive would be made in the law, as to render any attempt at consolidation by the commissioners, who could have no knowledge what the nature and extent of these changes might be, utterly vain and fruitless.

As examples in point, the commissioners refer to the Laws relating to the administration of justice,—to the road laws, as connected with the ordinances establishing municipal districts and those incorporating the cities of Quebec and Montreal,—the laws relative to the provincial customs and duties,—and those concerning elections and the trial of contested elections. Assuredly these laws require consolidation and amendment, but it would have been impossible for the commissioners to attempt the work with any useful result.

In the appendix \* attached to this report, the commissioners submit their remarks with reference to the subject of consolidation, on all the laws in force, and in the order in which they stand in the table No. 2. They have rarely suggested amendments, conceiving that their commission gave them no authority to do so, except in matters of pure form, or with reference to the removal of doubts. And both in the tables and the appendix, they have confined themselves to pointing out such difficulties as arise from the effect of one law or part of a law upon another, leaving it to other and higher authorities to solve or to remove the doubt, when occasion should require.

They submit, however, with this report two bills, one for removing doubts as to the repeal of certain laws and for repealing others which it seems obviously desirable to repeal,—and the other for declaring the act 9 G. 4. c. 77, concerning the conveyance or devise of lands held in free and common soccage, to be and to have been in force. The reasons which induced the commissioners to prepare these bills will appear from the tables; and they respectfully request Your Excellency's attention to the subject. Another bill was prepared by the commissioners with reference to the civil erection

\* NOTE.—It has not been thought necessary to insert this appendix which is of considerable length, the recommendations it was intended to support having now been approved and acted upon. It will be found printed with the reports, among the sessional papers of 1843.