

FIRST REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

*To His Excellency Sir Edmund Walker Head, Baronet, Lieutenant Governor
and Commander in Chief of the Province of New Brunswick, &c. &c. &c.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Having had the honor of receiving from Your Excellency a Commission directing us to carry out the objects of the Act passed at the last Session of the Legislature, relative to the revision of the Provincial Statutes and the amendment of Law proceedings, we beg leave to report, that shortly after receiving the Commission, we entered on its duties by holding our first meeting at Fredericton, to consider the best mode of accomplishing the highly important objects contemplated by the Legislature.

We were required—"As well to consolidate, simplify, revise, and arrange in one uniform code the Acts of Assembly, incorporating therein all such alterations and amendments as we should deem necessary, as to report on the procedure of the Courts of Law and Equity, and to suggest such alterations as might appear to us, or a majority of us, best adapted to lessen the expense and advance justice; and especially to take into consideration the Law of Evidence as now existing in the Province, and the propriety of altering the same; and to report separately thereon, the revision in one Report, and the alterations in Law proceedings in another."

These two departments presented a wide field of investigation, and although we deemed it quite impracticable to be prepared with both Reports at the present Session, we resolved to spare no pains in the codification of all the Statutes which could safely be touched, and at the same time to collect information on the more difficult subject of the improvement of Common Law and Equity procedure.

All the Acts of Assembly were examined and compared with great care and labour, and every Act repealed, amended, or in any way modified, noted in the margin, so that the whole could