

than the number of inhabitants required by the Act respecting the Municipal Institutions of Upper Canada to entitle a place to be incorporated as a town."

This section seems to provide that it is to be taken as a conclusive presumption (for the purpose of this provision) that any town incorporated as above mentioned has the required number of inhabitants, that is to say 3,000, and having therefore, by force of this presumption, a population of over 3,000 inhabitants, the Municipal Council would be entitled to issue twelve tavern licenses. Whilst this is the apparent reading of the statute, it cannot be denied that there is a very palpable anomaly in this particular case. The preamble to the statute says, "Whereas the number of tavern licenses is larger than the necessities of the community require, and it is therefore expedient to reduce the same," but here if the town has only 1,000 inhabitants the proportion of tavern licenses may be *three* to every 250 souls.—Eds. L. C. G.]

*Kidnapping—29 Vic., Cap. 14.*

TO THE EDITORS OF THE U. C. LAW JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—An error appears to have been made in the draft or copies of this Act to which it would be well to call attention. The 2nd sec. provides that all the provisions of the 97th Cap. of C. S. C. respecting accessories before or after the fact should be applicable to this Act, whereas Cap. 97th C. S. C. was repealed by 27 & 28 Vic., Cap. 19.

Yours &c.,

Walkerton 28th, March 1866.

LEX.

*Clerk of the Peace—Fees.*

TO THE EDITORS OF THE U. C. LAW JOURNAL.

SIR,—Will you have the goodness to afford me space in the *Law Journal* to ask if the Clerk of the Peace or County Attorney can charge a fee of *one shilling* for looking at the *Canada Gazette*. I had occasion, a few days ago, to request the junior partner of the courteous and very obliging County Attorney (not a hundred miles from Toronto) to allow me to look at the *Gazette* in his office, and on returning it I was informed that I must pay a fee of twenty cents for the search. If the charge was made for the *politeness* of the gentleman in question, I have nothing to complain of; but if made for merely looking for a few moments at a public newspaper, I have grave

doubts whether it can be honestly made. I suppose if it was an *imposition* it ought to be exposed.

Yours, &c.,

April 20, 1866.

J. F.

[We notice in the tariff of fees for Clerks of the Peace, as given in *Keele's Justice*, the following: "For every search under three years, (to be paid by the party making the same) \$0.20." We suppose, unless the whole thing were a joke, that it is under the supposed authority of the above item that the charge was made. But we can scarcely conceive it possible that such a charge could seriously be made for a mere act of common courtesy. If our correspondent is not under some misapprehension as to this, we should certainly agree with him that such a transaction "should be exposed."—Eds. L. J.]

REVIEW.

A JOURNAL FOR OIL MEN AND DEALERS IN LAND. By J. D. Edgar, of Osgoode Hall, Barrister-at-Law; with a new and correct map of the Oil Districts, by J. Ellis, jun.

We fancy we hear our professional readers asking what are "oil men?" Fat men, lean men, rich men, poor men, tall men and small men, have for a long time been topics of daily discourse. But "oil men" is an innovation of modern days. They are men interested in the buying and selling of "oil land," or of coal oil itself in the crude or refined state. For all such this interesting little brochure is intended. All such by the study of this book may become sufficiently learned to understand the ordinary requirements of law—as to agreements for the sale of land—mode of enforcing agreements, and grounds of refusal to fulfil agreements—about title to land in Upper Canada—leases, mortgages, and points relating to oil and mineral lands. The remarks of the writer are free from professional technicality.

He mentions in his preface that "any attempt to popularize the rules of law is deprecated by some professional men." We know of none such. A liberal education is not complete without some knowledge of the elements of law, and the more it is popularized the better will be the education of those who acquire even a popular knowledge of its principles. It is true that a little law is said to be a dangerous thing. With the use to be made of the learning when supplied we are not at present concerned. But this we can say, that the man who fancies he can make himself a lawyer by reading "handy books of law" is greatly mistaken. We, however, agree with Mr. Edgar that "a man cannot always have his solicitor at his elbow, and even when he has, he naturally desires to know something about the nature of the secu-