

INTRODUCTION.

The third edition of this work, published in 1851, has been long since distributed. The compiler has been urged in many quarters to publish another edition. He has now the pleasure of complying with the wishes of his friends and patrons, by presenting them with a new edition in a much enlarged and improved form. It will be found a complete digest of the criminal law as it now stands. Several important and valuable measures have been enacted since the publication of the last edition. Among them is the statute for the summary disposal of petty larcenies, instead of the dilatory and expensive process by indictment. Provision has also been made for the summary trial of juvenile offenders, and for the establishment of a reformatory prison, in which, as the statute in its preamble states, "they may be detained and corrected, and receive such instruction, and be subject to such discipline as shall appear most conducive to their reformation and the repression of crime." Provision too has been made for the erection of a criminal lunatic asylum, for the safe keeping of convicts under sentence, while insane—and for the confinement of lunatics whose malady may render their being at large dangerous to public safety.

Improvement has also been made in procedure upon criminal trials, by allowing indictments to be amended in court according to the facts given in evidence, so that an offender may not escape upon mere technicalities. An act was also passed in the last session of the legislature, to extend the right of appeal in criminal cases in Upper Canada. It seems to have been an anomaly in our criminal code that so just a provision should have been so long omitted—while in civil suits, as well as upon summary convictions before justices, the right of appeal has been long since conceded. Where the life or personal liberty of the accused is at stake, it is but just