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AN EDITORIAL RETROSPECT.

It is interesting from time to time in the history as well of individuals as of enterprises to indulge in a brief survey of the past. A review of the editorial history of this journal will not, we are sure, be considered out of place.

This retrospect takes us back nearly fifty years—to the beginning of 1855, admittedly no inconsiderable period of time in the annals of journalism. Much has happened in that period. Nation-builders have been busy the world over; perhaps nowhere more successfully than in the British possessions in America, considering the difficulties to be overcome. Law is the cement in which the courses of the social fabric must be laid if they are to stand firm, and in this department of human activity we are especially interested. Here reforms of the most benign and progressive character have been accomplished both in the mother country and her great self-governing colonies. Procedure has been purged of the subtleties that survived the legislation of 1852 and 1854, and the substantive side of the common law has been systematized to such an extent that it may no longer be derided as a "codeless myriad of precedents."

Not only has this journal extended a consistent support to every measure of real legal reform that has been mooted since its inception, but it has suggested several of the more important measures that have become crystalized upon the statute book. We refer to these matters more in detail hereafter.

Many jurists of the first rank have availed themselves of this journal as a medium for the public expression of their views; and thus our files are especially valuable as a repository of contemporary legal thought.

It is a source of pleasure to the present editorial management to be able to claim for this journal an unbroken adherence to the policy defined in the prospectus issued in the latter part of the year 1854; and to remind our readers that this prospectus (framed by his Honour Judge Gowan hereafter referred to—*vir bonus ac sapiens*), is sufficient to indicate that those who had the enterprise and faith to found a legal journal in this province so many years