unanimity was made necessary in the verdict of a jury. A few years afterwards the courts were enabled by statute to attach the personal property of absconding, removing, or concealed debtors, to answer claims to ten pounds against them; executors and administrators were specially authorised to sue, and rendered liable to suits upon causes of action within the jurisdiction (12 Vic. chap. 19) and this and the previous statute contained several provisions relative to procedure.

A measure was introduced by the Hon. J. S. Macdonald, in 1850, which resulted in the act 13 & 14 Vic. cap. 53. It consolidated the three statutes in force regulating the courts, and gave them new and greatly enlarged powers. These were, chiefly, an increased general jurisdiction to twenty-five pounds upon contracts, and ten pounds "in tort to personal chattels," a summary power to adjudicate upon claims made by third parties on property seized under process of the courts, an authority to examine judgment debtors with a view to the enforcement of such satisfaction as the debtor was enabled to give, and for the punishment of fraud —provisions for the revival of judgments in case of the death of the parties, for the removal of causes to the superior courts, for enabling a judgment to be made available in certain cases against the debtor's lands, for enlarging the remedy under writs of execution, and for further facilitating relief against officers and their sureties; all these in their original shape or in modified form, are continued to the present day.

Some of the provisions of this statute, the power to examine judgment creditors (the 91st clause) and the extensive range of executions, for instance, have been much objected to of late years, but on the whole the changes made by Mr. Macdonald's act continue to be regarded with favour by those who use the courts.

Under 4 & 5 Vic., the magistrates in Quarter Sessions had set off their several counties into Court Divisions By this Act (of 1850), these divisions were preserved with their existing limits, but the continued power to declare and appoint divisions was exercised in several counties.

The act 16th Vic., cap. 177, again enlarged the jurisdiction as well as improved the procedure in many particulars, and remedied certain defects in the existing law, and besides contained several provisions conducive to substantial justice, and to cheapness in administration. It met the difficulty respecting claims by landlords for rent due, when tenant's goods seized on demised premises, providing for the interest of both landlord and execution creditor, and extended the law of interpleader to such claims. It facilitated the speedy determination by a jury of controverted facts; moreover, by this act two entirely new elements were incorporated with the local law courts. 1st *The law of arbitration* was extended to the courts with all the advantages and without the technicalities of practice used in the superior courts. 2nd. The appointment of a Board of Judges was authorised, with power to make a uniform set of rules regulating the practice of the courts for use in all the counties in Upper Canada. The fears entertained respecting the original power to make rules (each judge for his own county) that different minds brought to bear on the same matter would without conference or intercommunication produce varied results, different codes of practice in the counties, proved to be correct, and in very few counties was procedure exactly the same. This evil was remedied under the enactment referred to, and the Board of Judges appointed,* framed general rules which, sanctioned by the judges of the superior courts, came into operation on 1st October, 1854, with a statutory obligation. They are still in force. This act, the work of Mr. Attorney-General Richards, aided largely the design of the courts to secure speedy, cheap, and substantial justice, combined with uniform and sound principles of administration. The statute 18 Vic., cap. 125, further enlarged the jurisdiction by enabling defendants to be summoned from any part of Upper Canada to the court division in which the cause of action arose, and this as of right and without any leave from the court.

And, in aid of this new jurisdiction, the act made provision for a judgment obtained in one county being enforced in another, for a writ of execution could not be executed out of the limits of the judicial district in which it issued.

Without referring to certain acts upon other subjects, which contained provisions affecting in some degree the powers of the courts, the next statute relating to the courts is the 22 Vic. cap. 33, which was introduced by Mr. Attorney-General J. A. Macdonald.

It was for "the Abolition of Imprisonment for Debt." The clauses of this statute which appertained to the Division Courts met objections which had been urged to the "Judgment Summons" clauses.

It was complained that these clauses had been greatly abused by creditors, and the power conferred by them used against debtors for the purpose of oppression and annoyance. To remedy this, Mr. J. A. Macdonald's measure provided that no party should be committed to gaol for default in attendance, unless twice summoned, or the Judge was satisfied that his non-attendance was wilful; and if it appeared that the debtor was improperly summoned, he was entitled to compensation for his trouble and attendance.

* The judges appointed were, Harrison, Malloch, Gowan, Campbell, (since dead) and O'Reilly, (since resigned). The rules were made the 25th of June, 1854, and approved by the judges of the superior courts on the 6th of July following.