

as a summary of the result of their enquiries, that no complete system of Bankruptcy or Insolvency is in force in any of the Provinces, except the Insolvent Act of 1860. That the operation of that Act has been found to be defective in the following respects:—

1. In permitting delay in divesting the debtor of his estate in voluntary assignments; and, when a proceeding was adopted which was not open to this objection, leaving the choice of the assignee to the debtor.
2. In imposing any restriction either dependent on residence or official character (if, in fact, such be its correct interpretation) upon the choice of an assignee by the creditors.
3. In not providing a more convenient means by which the creditors could exercise a constant control of and supervision over the assignee, by means of inspectors, of a supervising committee or otherwise.
4. In requiring too long a period to intervene before real estate can be sold, dividends declared, or meetings of creditors validly held.
5. In not permitting the assignee, with the authority of the creditors, to sell the entire estate of the insolvent in one lot, either for a fixed price, or for a percentage upon the liabilities.
6. In not providing for the punishment of fraudulent acts as crimes.
7. In abridging to too great an extent the power of the creditors over the debtor's discharge.
8. In not granting power to the judge and the creditors to mark disapprobation of the conduct of the debtor by granting a discharge of an inferior class.
9. In not making more ample provision for facilitating compositions, particularly with respect to compositions for time payments.
10. In not authorizing the contestation, at the expense of the estate, of the discharge, or confirmation of the discharge, of a debtor.
11. In several minor details as to proce-

dures, chiefly in the Province of Ontario, which the answers of professional men sufficiently elucidate.

J. J. C. ABBOTT,
Chairman.

BISHOP ON LEGAL STUDY.

FIRST BOOK OF THE LAW, by Joel Prentiss Bishop. Boston: Little, Brown & Co.—This work is intended, as the title indicates, to be placed in the hands of young men who are proposing to adopt the profession of the law. "Its object is," says the author, "first, to enable all young persons to decide for themselves the question, whether the law offers to them the pursuit for life which is best adapted to their natural capacities and tastes; secondly, to teach all, who may choose to read it, something concerning the nature of the law, how it has come to us, what is legal authority, and so on, in order to qualify them the better to discharge the duties of citizens in a free republic; thirdly, and chiefly, to teach the student of the law how to study it, and to furnish him with various incidental helps in the study. It is not written upon the plan of teaching a little law upon every legal topic, therefore of necessity conveying to the mind of the young reader no really correct and perfected image of anything; but its object is to prepare the way for a thorough and profound study of the law, viewed both as a science and an art, in other books."

The plan of Mr. Bishop's book is to a considerable extent original. He endeavors throughout to impress upon the student the importance of *looking and thinking* for himself. "He (the student) should early acquire the habit of determining for himself, whether the particular decisions he reads in the books are *correct*, and their conclusions are the *law*. No greater mistake can be made, than for him to take it for granted, and as of course, that everything he reads in his books, or hears from his preceptor, is to be laid away in his memory as being the law. To make this mistake is to stumble at the outset; and in such a stumbling there is often a fatal fall. It is the great error of the legal edu-