

The lapse of time, and the additional legislation since 1860, rendered it necessary that the Commissioners should again carefully review the entire series of civic enactments, which having been done, they had next to consider the best plan to be adopted to carry out the intention of the Council as embodied in their Resolution or Commission. To this end three courses presented themselves:—*First*, to print the By-laws as they then existed, with notes pointing out amendment or repeal; *secondly*, to codify, or, in other words, to classify and re-arrange the whole body of legislation according to subjects; or, *thirdly* (being a modification of the first), to print the entire series, having first consolidated all the By-laws relating to the same subjects, and amended, where necessary, those relating to a single purpose.

The first course was soon discovered to be impracticable, for it was found that there were so many By-laws on the same subjects, to which there had been continuous addition and amendment, that many of their sections were clearly contradictory, while in others the intention of the Council was lost in the obscurity of frequent change, it was therefore considered that publication in such shape would still leave the By-laws in a condition difficult to interpret, if not calculated to mislead those who had to refer to them, and thus defeat the main object of easy and intelligible reference.

As to the second course, a Codification of the By-laws, the Commissioners, while fully impressed with the convenient and complete result of their labours that such a work would have exhibited, found that the difficulty of its preparation out of a mass of material, for the most part in manuscript, was well nigh insurmountable as a first effort, although it may readily follow at a future day from the shape in which they now leave the By-laws.

The Commissioners therefore, after much hesitation, decided to adopt the third expedient, and print the volume in its present shape.

Another reason which influenced the Commissioners in a