PREFACE.

It is now nearly ten years since the second edition appeared of "Barron on Bills of Sale," and up to the present time that work has remained the only Canadian text book upon a subject so important as the law respecting mortgages and sales of personal property.

It was originally the intention of the authors of the present work to publish merely a third edition of the previous one, but in the decade that has passed since the second edition the law has in many respects been completely changed, and such of it as remains the same is so modified by judicial decision and statutory enactment, that an entirely new work was found to be necessary.

All that appeared in the former work, and which yet remains good law, will still be found, while a great deal of obsolete matter, including insolvency legislation, has been eliminated, and its place taken by modern law. Even such as is retained of the previous work has been put in more careful sequence, and duplication avoided. The space saved in this way, and the increased size of the pages, produces a book, which, while it omits nothing of any value, gives more matter in a more convenient form.

Until the 30th of May, 1849, there was no statute in force in Upper Canada, requiring registration of mortgages of personal property. On that day, the statute, 12 Vict., c. 74, became law. This statute is the foundation of the subsequent Acts relating to mortgages of goods and chattels.

The present time seems opportune for a new work on this subject. Since the previous work was issued, the Ontario law was first amended several times, then consolidated in 1894, and is now being revised for the new Revised Statutes to be issued next year. It is owing to the kindness of the Commissioners who are making the revision, that "The Bills of Sale and Chattel Mortgage Act," which has finally passed through their hands, has been placed in ours, thus enabling us to anticipate the Revised Statutes, the expectation of the early