

PREFACE.

THIS work has been compiled with the object of aiding the profession and others in the examination and construction of the "Married Women's Property Acts" of this Province.

The effect of these Acts is to give to wives rights and privileges utterly opposed to the principles and policy of the Common Law of England. The prudence of these concessions has been doubted by many who, whilst acknowledging that the old law was neither

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they refer, and have not sufficiently estimated the tact and capacity of the gentler sex; and it will probably be found in practice that the privileges conferred upon wives by the Act will seldom be abused, and will be used only as a shield against oppression or injustice.

But if there are some who take exception to the principles on which our "Married Women's Property Acts" are founded, there are many more who find fault with the manner in which they have been framed. They are said to be obscure and difficult of construction, and inharmonious with each other, and with the law as administered by the Courts of Equity. Conceiving this to be