

## THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE STATUTES—LAW SOCIETY.

the Statutes are to be consolidated, and it is perhaps right that the duty and responsibility of determining this should be assumed by the Attorney-General. There is a good deal of difference of opinion amongst the profession upon several points. One prominent one we may mention: whether the present language, with all its repetitions and redundancies, is to be adhered to, or an attempt made to simplify and improve the language of the Statutes. Even the bolder course of a codification is not without advocates. It will be a long work, and a work of great drudgery to "rough hew" the great body of the Statute Law of Ontario into anything like a symmetrical form; and it is well that men who can give their whole time to the work should be engaged in this operation. But the final work of preparing the body of consolidated laws to be submitted to the Legislature must be undertaken by the very best and ablest jurists in the country. This will be a practical necessity; for it is quite obvious that the consolidation, as finally prepared, must be accepted on *faith*. It would be absolutely impossible, without common consent, to pass any such measure in the ordinary way. There would be material for a discussion for years in such a work. If, then, the present is merely intended as preparing the ground, and it is intended finally to appoint two or three men of long experience, high standing and familiarity with the subject matter finally to prepare it for the Legislature, it is well, otherwise the work will be abortive.

The gentlemen who have been selected to do the preliminary work are said to be Messrs. F. Joseph, Langton, Biggar and Kingsford. The three latter are University honour men. Of Messrs. Langton and Biggar, having been on the staff of this journal, we can speak with confidence of, and with much pleasure testify to, their

ability and industry. Mr. Joseph has had some experience in the sort of work which he will have to do, and he is a careful and painstaking compiler; and if young men are to be chosen (and such is the fashion now-a-days, though some might like to see professional plums given to older men who have "borne the burden and heat of the day," and who also have time on their hands), we think the selection is a good one. The consolidation of 1858-9 will be a model for the new volume, and the learning and skill there displayed will be of the greatest value.

We wish the consolidators every success in their labours and shall be glad to congratulate all parties concerned upon a successful result. On a future occasion we shall refer more particularly to the nature of the work to be done.

## LAW SOCIETY.

EASTER TERM—1874.

We are glad to see that the Hon. Mr. Justice Gwynne has returned from his recent trip to Europe, looking extremely well. He is taking Chambers and Practice Court this term, relieving Mr. Dalton for a time from his too arduous duties.

Business in both courts is unusually brisk, there being no less than sixty-five cases on the trial paper of the Queen's Bench, and thirty-three on that of the Common Pleas.

Thirteen gentlemen presented themselves for call to the Bar. Of these Mr. E. G. Patterson was the only one who succeeded in passing without an oral on the merits. He distanced all competitors, passing a most satisfactory examination. Messrs. C. E. Ryerson, G. E. Frazer, P. M. Barker, H. M. Deroche, J. E. Terhune, A. S. Ball, and F. D. Moore, were also admitted without an oral, having previously passed as attorneys. Four gentle-