

P R E F A C E.

The delay which has occurred in the publication of the following Work, since the first advertisement of it, has not been owing to the Editor, but to the intervention of impediments which he could not have foreseen.

The materials from which it has been compiled are, though somewhat scanty, of the very highest authenticity. In the few instances in which the Editor has been enabled to furnish at any length the *reasons* upon which the decisions were founded, his information has been derived from notes made by the late Mr. Justice *Jebb*; an advantage which ceased upon the death of that learned Judge in 1834.

The Criminal and Presentment Laws have undergone such frequent and important changes within the last few years, that it was a matter of great perplexity in several instances to determine whether particular cases should be rejected from this publication, as having been decided on statutes either expressly or impliedly repealed, or should be retained, as applicable to the provisions of the new laws, which are in so many instances re-enactments (with slight variations) of the old. Several cases have accordingly been excluded, as palpably useless under the present law; and others have been retained, which perhaps it may be thought should have been excluded; but considering the dearth of authorities upon the Irish Criminal and Presentment Laws,