

PREFACE.

The compilation of this work was undertaken for the purpose of applying a felt want in the Profession. Hitherto the Practice of the Court of Vice-Admiralty in this Province has been almost unknown to the majority of the Profession, because of the great difficulty of access to any work containing the Rules and Regulations of the Court. Only two or three copies of the Rules and Regulations governing the practice of Vice-Admiralty Courts in the British Colonies are in the hands of practitioners in this Province, and these copies are almost sealed books, except to their fortunate possessors.

The publication of this work is intended to removed this great inconvenience. Its comparative cheapness will place it within the reach of all. It will be as useful in every British Province, where a Vice-Admiralty Court has been established, as in New Brunswick. The list of existing Courts to which this observation applies, may be seen on page 136.

It will be found to contain all the Rules and Regulations of the Court; all the forms required in ordinary use; full tables of fees; and the Imperial Statutes, 2 Will. 4. C. 51, 26 Vic. C. 24, and 30 and 31 Vict. C. 45, together with the Orders in Council founded upon those Statutes. The Forms are numbered in the order as they appear in this work, but within brackets opposite are the numbers by which they may be referred to in the old book. To have produced in this book all the Forms, would have involved too heavy an outlay, without in reality adding materially to its value. The Forms given are those in common use, and the practitioner will find them amply sufficient for all ordinary purposes. The Imperial Statutes are not generally available, and their publication herewith will be found a valuable addition.

The Index has been carefully prepared, and, it is hoped, will be found to contain all that is required for ready reference.

Mr. COORE in his work on Admiralty Practice says: "The modern growth and present eminence of the Court of Admiralty is one of the prominent facts of the day." In England this growth and public favor were the result of wise legislation, enlarging the jurisdiction of the Court, and the adoption of prudent reforms in procedure. While rendering the Court in England more efficient, and capable of meeting the requirements of modern commerce, the British Par-