

## PREFACE.

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THE facilities possessed by the legal profession for the study of the "Law of Dower" are not at present so perfect as to require for any honest attempt towards their improvement much in the way either of explanation or apology. That a suitable book of reference on the subject is required is a thing generally admitted. Expression has been given to this felt want in the *Canada Law Journal*, to an article of the sort in which Journal, the author must ascribe his first impulse towards the preparation of this volume. Thus far, the principal works in this department of legal lore, which have issued respectively from the Canadian, English or American press, are those of Draper, Park and Scribner. The first of these—the only production of the kind up to the present time of Canadian origin—is long since out of date; the other two are, neither of them, without grave defects; the former, partly on account of the mass of ancient law which it contains, and the latter, from the very considerable extent to which it is occupied with the conflicting decisions of the courts belonging severally to the various States of the Union.

The author has, however, much pleasure in acknowledging his obligations to the labours in this field of the above-