

The Canada Law Journal.

VOL. XXVII.

JANUARY 16, 1891.

No. 1.

WE send with this number the sheet almanac, a welcome addition, as of old, to the literature of a lawyer's office. The volume for 1890 closed with the usual Index and Table of Cases, etc. There was added a new feature, to wit, a Table of the Statutes referred to in the volume, with the particular section on which some point was decided, or construction placed by the courts. There is also a Table of the Consolidated Rules of Practice, of a similar character. We feel that this addition to the index will be of practical value, enabling the practitioner to find the latest decision on any of the sections or rules given.

IN referring to the index we are reminded of a clipping from the *London Globe* a couple of years ago, which we reprint below, in the hope that its perusal may serve as an excuse for any shortcoming which our readers may find. The extract reads as follows:—"It would be difficult to discover an intellectual quality which the index-maker does not require. He must have a high degree of imagination in the truest sense—enough to put himself in the place of every possible student, for every possible purpose, so as to know, by a sort of instinct, what each would require. He must have the logical faculty that knows what to omit as well as what to insert; and he must know the work he deals with, not merely with mechanical precision, but with intelligent mastery. Indeed, the ordinary index-maker is in this unfortunate position—he requires qualities that would place him above his work, and yet he cannot do his work efficiently without them. The result is that there is scarcely such a thing as a really good index in the world; nor will there be until the truth is recognized of the fact that the production of more indexes to books, and not more books themselves, is the most practically useful work in which any trained scholar can engage. A good and comprehensive index should be worth, to its compiler, the number of its words in gold; and its achievement should imply fame." We wish it were possible for us to attain to this high standard.

CROSS-EXAMINATION.

There is hardly any subject connected with the administration of justice which, at times, demands more consideration than that of the cross-examination of witnesses.

To anyone who is a regular attendant at the trials of jury cases, it will be perfectly obvious that the time taken up with the cross-examination of a witness is very much out of proportion to that on his examination in chief, and, more-