

THE dilapidated condition of one of the most important abstract index books in the City Registry Office, viz., that to plan 108, has suggested to us the great propriety in our humble opinion of the Government having, at all events, the abstract index books in all the registry offices in the Province printed. It is obvious that this must be done sooner or later. As the city increases in size, and indeed already, there is a great inconvenience in only one person being able to have access to one abstract index book at a time. If they were printed there would, of course, be several copies of each abstract index book, and many people might have the same abstract index before them at the same time. Moreover, the abstract indexes to all the counties in the Province would be contained in all the registry offices in quite as little space as the present bulky volumes occupy, and people in Toronto could have before them the abstract titles of all lots of land up to, at any rate, a very late date all over the Province, and practitioners in the country would have the same advantage with regard to such properties in Toronto. Our ideas are even more extensive still, and extend to the printing of all the books in all the registry offices in the Province. The expense as a Government matter would be a trifle; the advantages would be enormous, by enabling searches into any title up to a very recent date to be made equally well in any office, excepting in respect to the occasional necessity of searching the original documents. At all events, we commend the consideration of this to the Attorney-General.

LIBEL AND SLANDER.

Hard words break no bones, though many a heart has been crushed thereby; still the law of Libel and Slander, which deals only with words, words, words, is one of the most amusing departments of jurisprudence. The appearance of Odgers on Libel and Slander in the text-book series of the Blackstone Publishing Company, has drawn our attention anew to the Queen's English, how it is used and how abused. It is wonderful to see on how many epithets the courts have passed judgment, weighing them in the scales of justice, punishing those who give currency to some, absolving those who trade in others. One may call another a scurvy, bad fellow, a rogue, a villain and a varlet, a renegade rogue, a common filcher, a cunning knave, a liar, a rogue and a swindler, a blackleg, and yet that other must bear without redress "these words of heat," unless, indeed, some special damage can be shown. One may describe an honourable member of the Law Society as a cheat, a rogue or a knave, but you must not say, "You cheat your clients." The judges allow one to call a justice of the peace a fool, ass, blockhead, a beetle-headed justice, a logger-headed, a slouch-headed, bursen-bellied hound, or a blood-sucker and one who sucketh blood; because such elegant expressions merely impute want of natural cleverness or ignorance of