

PREFACE.

The object of this treatise is to meet the need which seems to exist of a handbook of reference to the decisions of the Admiralty Court in Canada. It is now nearly twenty-five years since the Exchequer Court of Canada obtained a jurisdiction in Admiralty and there is as yet no work in which the decided cases, numerous as they are and scattered through the reports of the Exchequer Court, of the Supreme Court of Canada, and of the Courts of the Provinces, have been incorporated. It is mainly as a work of reference to those authorities that the present book is commended to the indulgence of the profession. At the same time it has been attempted to give a general and succinct account of Admiralty jurisdiction, with especial reference to its most characteristic feature, the maritime lien, and to note the most important conditions of the various Admiralty causes. The author, of course, owes much to such works of established reputation as those of Coote, Roscoe, and Williams and Bruce, as well as to the various invaluable digests of the reports of the old Vice-Admiralty Courts; but it has been attempted in every case of importance or difficulty to go back to the fountain head of authority, and to establish every important principle by the words of the judgments themselves. No one can be more sensible than the author of the shortcomings of a work, written as it has been in such short intervals as could be snatched from the practice of an exacting profession: but, *quasi cursor, qui scientia lampada tradit*, he hopes that it may at least prove an incitement to a more perfect and comprehensive work on what is one of the most interesting branches of the law, and which will undoubtedly become in Canada one of the most important; and that the future builder