

and practice are requisite. I have had (for instance) the assistance of Mr. Deputy Surveyor General Bouchette, (who on his part acknowledges that of Mr. Futvoye) in correcting the chapter respecting the boundaries of the Counties of Lower Canada, and the parishes, townships and places comprised in them, yet we are by no means sure that the descriptions are in all cases perfectly correct.

But there are other imperfections which it was beyond the power of the Commissioners to remove even when they perceived them clearly, cases in which there is ambiguity in the law itself, or a want of the provisions necessary to adapt an Act made with reference to one state of things to another which has since supervened. Nor is this surprising, when it is remembered that many of the laws we have had to consolidate were enacted nearly a century ago, while others relating to the same subject date only from last session. We have had to amalgamate laws of the Governor and Legislative Council for the Province of Quebec, of the Parliament of Lower Canada, of the Governor and Special Council for the affairs of that Province, and of the Parliament of Canada ; and it was our duty to report the Statute Law as it is, not as we might think it ought to be ; to present it in such a form that any defects in it should be easily perceived and amended, but not to amend it. A very slight exercise of Legislative power will, in most cases, remove the defects referred to.

It is satisfactory to observe the very small amount of statutory provisions relative to the Criminal Law which are in force exclusively in Lower Canada. The Criminal Law Acts brought in by the Hon. Mr. Black, in 1841, and those regulating the duties of Justices of the Peace, brought in by the Hon. Mr. Drummond, for Lower Canada, in 1851, and adopted by the Hon. Mr. Richards for Upper Canada, in 1853, the Hon. Mr. J. H. Cameron's Acts of 1847 and 1854, respecting Forgery and Procedure, have made the Criminal Law nearly uniform throughout the Province.

I have received most valuable and energetic assistance from Mr. E. P. Dorion, who translated into French that portion of the work which was prepared in English, and from Mr. F. Badgley who, in addition to other aid afforded me, translated into English the portion prepared in French :—and the Queen's Printer is entitled to my sincere thanks for the accuracy and despatch with which he has done his work. Messrs. Polette, A. Stuart, Loranger, Mackay, and DeBoucherville, my brother Commissioners, have divided with me the labour and responsibility of the task