

compatible with facility of reference. The classified arrangement of the laws, and their being all contained in the same volume with the index made the task easier. Under the larger titles it appeared unnecessary to do more than refer to the pages where the laws relative to the subject would be found ; and this also seemed sufficient when any title formed the main subject of an act or acts : to have done more would only have been to insert the substance of the marginal notes in nearly the same order in which they stand in the body of the work, and the notes themselves can be looked through with equal readiness, and with greater advantage from their standing by the side of the text itself, to which instant reference can be made. The chief care appeared requisite with regard to *incidental* provisions upon matters not forming the main subject of an act, and for which therefore it would not obviously occur to the reader to search in it. The plan of the former indexes was therefore abandoned, and the work performed on the principles above mentioned. Under each of the larger titles the act or acts relating to it are briefly referred to, and the incidental and less obvious provisions are mentioned under the heads to which they immediately relate. Thus under the head "Registration of Titles, &c.," the whole ordinance in force is referred to, while its incidental provisions are mentioned under the heads of "Dower, Married Women, Husbands, Tutors, &c. &c."—These minor heads are accordingly very numerous, (much more so indeed than in the four parts of the former Index taken together,) and no word has been willingly omitted under which it was supposed likely that any provision would be sought for. The labour of preparing and examining the index was greatly increased by the adoption of this form, but it is hoped that the facility of reference and condensation attained will be found commensurate with it.

The table of acts and ordinances not inserted, was deemed requisite to complete the work. Its object and construction are explained in a note prefixed to it. With very few exceptions no act is inserted under more than one head, and a law may not be found under that which is first referred to, but the table is sufficiently brief to enable it to be looked entirely through without much labour.

The table last mentioned comes down to the present time, and the commissioners are engaged in continuing the "Tables relative to the acts and ordinances of Lower Canada," to the same date.

With this their labours will necessarily close, for the powers granted by their commission do not, and indeed could not consistently with the resolution of the Assembly, extend further. In their second report they have made some suggestions which may possibly lead to a continuation of the work thus commenced, but these suggestions cannot be acted upon without the sanction of the proper authorities. The perpetually changing current of legislation has already swept away some few of the laws inserted in this volume, and before many years have passed, the greater part of them will probably be superseded by acts consolidating and amending their enactments, (and to the perfection of this new legislation it is hoped this work may contribute something,) but there are many wise and valuable enactments which will long continue to form part of the statute law of Lower Canada.