

The Lower Canada Law Journal.

Salus Populi Suprema Lex.

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PROEM.

'The first number of a new publication is never so good as its successors, and consequently not a fair specimen,' said an English reviewer, noticing the first issue of a new work. There being several reasons why the first number of the Law Journal is hardly an adequate representative number, we have thought proper on laying this issue before our readers, to say a few words in explanation of the design and objects of the work. *In limine*, let us say, a glance at the contents of this number will serve to dispel a misconception, which, we understand, existed in the minds of a few, outside of the profession, who probably had not seen our prospectus,—that the Journal was likely to come into competition, or interfere in the slightest degree, with the Lower Canada Jurist, which for so many years has enjoyed the high and well deserved esteem of the profession. So far is this from being the case that the learned editors of the Jurist have been among the earliest and warmest supporters of this publication.

In the first place, then, we trust to see the LAW JOURNAL become a medium in the pages of which members of the bar and others can communicate their opinions, and advocate such improvements and amendments in the law as they may desire to see carried out. It is unnecessary to say that no personal reflections, or remarks passing the bounds of fair criticism, will find a place in these columns. Though the JOURNAL is not designed for a Reporter, we propose to

publish condensed reports of the proceedings and decisions of our courts, paying particular attention to the courts of Review and Appeal. Interesting points arising in the course of criminal trials, and all important criminal cases, so far as they can be procured, will be noted and commented upon. New books issuing from the Provincial and British Press, will be reviewed and criticised.—Correspondence, legal appointments, calls to the bar, biographical and obituary notices, and compilations, will also find a place. The remainder of each number will be devoted to interesting matter selected from English and American periodicals.

As to the form of the JOURNAL, it was not without some hesitation that a quarterly issue was decided upon. But reflection has served to convince us that while some ends would have been more efficiently served by a weekly or monthly publication, the form we have adopted is better calculated to ensure success, being more adapted to this our day of small things. We propose, however, to issue the publication monthly as soon as circumstances will warrant the change.

Having said so much by way of explanation, it only remains to record our gratitude to those who have aided our humble efforts. *Bis dat qui cito dat*, is especially applicable to encouragement of a literary undertaking, and to those who came forward with expressions of good will and promises of assistance at the first announcement of this Journal, a double acknowledgment is due. Begun with no little diffidence, the labours of the editor have proceeded with growing confidence. *Heureux commencement est la moitié de l'œuvre*, and our beginning has equalled the most sanguine anticipations, and given a fair promise of continued vitality and progress.