

other available means to secure to Lower Canada an advantage which the proposed plan of confederation appears to have already contemplated, that of being the standard of assimilation and unity, and of entering into new political relations without undergoing disturbing alterations in her laws or institutions.

Such are the main features presented by the Civil Code, regarded as an embodiment of existing laws, but it has yet other advantages as a work of legislation, inasmuch as it introduces numerous and important amendments, intended for the most part to improve our law as a system, and to adopt it more perfectly to our present state of society.

It is evidently of great importance, that when the Code comes into force, these changes in the law should be known beforehand, at least to the profession, if not to the community at large. They are distinguished in the Code by their insertion between brackets. But, as the former law corresponding with them, as exhibited in the Draft, has disappeared, a previous knowledge of it is necessary in order to understand clearly the difference between the old and the new rules; and, as the observations made by the Commissioners, in reporting upon these amendments, no longer accompany the text, a like difficulty exists in ascertaining the reasons which suggested each particular amendment.

To obviate these difficulties, and to furnish a prompt and an easy method of becoming acquainted with the new legislation of the Code, the following synopsis has been written. Great care has been taken to present as succinctly and clearly as possible all the changes introduced by the Code, classifying them according to their character and motives, and referring in every case to the number of the article containing the amendment.

Of these changes generally, it may be remarked at the outset that they are not of a subversive character, or likely to disturb existing relations or to clash with prevailing notions. They are on the contrary of a nature to harmonize with the ideas of the present day, and to adapt our ancient laws to the changes which since their date society itself has undergone.

It is one of the characteristics of the olden legislation that it appears to have had in view Things before Persons. The conservative spirit of the law seems to have clung to immoveables as the safest basis of social stability, and its policy tended to restrict