conciseness is to provide by Statute or rules of Court, short forms of pleadings for the most commonly recurring cases. This system has, in England, been carried to its utmost length by the Judicature Act; so much so that Mr. Justice Quain lately declared that brevity was the soul of pleading under the new rules. This is perhaps going to the opposite extreme, and the English legal journals are beginning to ridicule the exceeding curtness of the new system. We incline to think that the present methods of pleading in Equity in this Province are as sensible, and withal as formal, as are necessary to ensure the ends of justice. The bill, it is prescribed, is to contain a statement of the case in clear and concise language, and the answer is to consist of a clear and concise statement of such defences as the defendant desires to make. The judges of that Court have been careful to mould the procedure of the Court to suit the circumstances of the country, and have followed the advice of Lord Cottenham when he said, "I think it the duty of the Court to adapt its practice and course of proceeding to the existing state of society, and not, by too strict an adherence, to decline to administer justice": *Walworth* v. *Holt*, 4 M. & Cr. 635. It does not seem to us of much value to attempt to frame a set of forms for all sorts of pleadings and for all possible circumstances, unless the judges and law-makers have come to the conclusion that the functions of revising counsel are unnecessary, and that the system of pleading can be efficiently worked as a mere piece of machinery. Some reasonable latitude should be allowed for special or peculiar cases, and the power which the judges have, of disallowing or limiting the costs of unnecessary and verbose statements and pleadings will, as a rule, form a sufficient corrective to any abuse of the proceedings of the Court.

CONSOLIDATION OF THE STATUTES AND FORM OF THE STATUTE BOOK.

The Commisioners for the revision and consolidation of the statutes affecting this Province, have made their second report.

The necessity for a speedy revision and consolidation of our statute law appears from the allusion the Commissioners make to the peculiar nature of our statute law, "consisting, as it does, in a great measure, of enactments passed under a constitution which no longer exists, and having application within a territory of which the present Province of Ontario forms only a part." We, therefore, cannot help expressing our regret that we are not to have a consolidation this year, but at the same time we are glad that the completeness of the work is not being impaired by undue haste and too little consideration.

The difficulties attending the present revision are, no doubt, exceptionally great, but experience tells us that a consolidation, at any time, is not compiled in a day, and as the work is one which will, under our present system, in all probability never be entered upon until the necessity for its completion is actually felt, it seems to us that some scheme should be devised by which consolidations might be prepared within a short space of time, and at comparatively short intervals.

A consolidation of the statutes does not mean merely the collecting of the *disjecta membra* into which the statutes have been torn by successive repeals and amendments. It incidentally involves a much greater responsibility—the reframing of many Acts or sections, in order artistically to introduce some amendment, or to bring a particular enactment into harmony with others; and if these incidental duties in the work of reconstruction are not performed with the greatest care, the