

## P R E F A C E.

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THE object of this work, is to explain fully the proceedings at the various stages, in either House, and in Committee, upon Private Bills solicited in the Parliament of Canada. The system of practice, though based on that adopted in the Imperial Parliament, differs from it materially in many of the details; and the absence of any hand-book or guide to the course of proceedings to be observed, has been long felt, not only by parties soliciting or opposing Bills, but also by Members of the Legislature charged with the conduct of such Bills in either House.

The writer has been connected with the Private Bill Office since its establishment, and has thus had an opportunity of noting down, as they occurred, the various decisions and modifications which have been made from time to time, and which have established the system of practice as it now stands; while in all matters not specially provided for, reference is made (in accordance with a Standing Order) to the usages of the Imperial Parliament.

The Rules of the two Houses concerning Private Bills are appended to the work. The Provincial precedents referred to (based on decisions or practice, in the House or in Committee,)