

licting interests of rival parties, and secure the public from an encroachment on their rights for the aggrandizement of individuals. So little, indeed, has this question been understood, that no attempt to define the distinction between a Private and a Public Bill has ever yet been made by any Legislative authority in Canada; and Private Bills have been frequently introduced and proceeded upon, in our Provincial Legislature, without even the restraint and protection afforded to the public by the scanty Orders that exist to regulate their mode of enactment. Such laxity of procedure opens an extensive field for the commission of much injustice, by affording an opportunity to designing individuals, to obtain the sanction of the Legislature to measures, which, if fully examined and understood, would be at once rejected. The serious attention of the House having been, however, at length directed to the subject, it is hoped that its Private Business may be ere long established on an efficient and satisfactory basis. In aid of this, the information contained in the following pages has been carefully collected.

The plan which, after much reflection, it has been thought advisable to pursue, is to divide the Enquiry into two parts; the first, describing the irregularities originally existing, and the gradual improvements successively introduced, in the practice of the Imperial Parliament, which, in this as in other particulars, we take as our model; and secondly, suggesting the regulations it might now be expedient to adopt, to lay the foundation of the contemplated improvements here.

Plan of this
Report.

In the first section, it is proposed to proceed step by step, commencing at the earliest stage of the application and accompanying it to its final issue, examining, as we proceed, the arguments for and against the particular course of practice in question, stating

Of the first
section.