

accompanies it with certain remarks with which we, for the most part, agree. Having published a table of the distribution of personal estates, according to the law of Upper Canada and the then law of Lower Canada, he asks the question "which of the two is the more equitable?" and he answers by saying: "we cannot help thinking that our's is not. The student of the civil law finds in it traces of the Theodosian code in its roughest state, unsoftened by the novels of Justinian, while in the Table of Lower Canada he finds an offspring of the *corpus Justinianum*." He objects to the *patria potestas*, the right, according to the law of England, of the father of an intestate to the personal property of the latter to the exclusion of the intestate's brothers and sisters, and, he adds, "the law of Lower Canada" is not open to the same objection," and that "if it had" nothing more to recommend it than the absence of the "*patria potestas*, we should, upon this ground alone, "all other things being equal, conceive it entitled to rank before "ours." There are few who will dissent from the editor, who writing some years before Confederation, thirty years ago, said: "From what we know of the laws of Lower Canada, there are "many good things which we might adopt with advantage. "Those in Lower Canada who know anything of our laws will, "we believe, return the compliment. The truth is that neither "system is perfect, and that neither section of the Province will "adopt the whole law of the other to the entire exclusion of its "own. The first step towards assimilation is inquiry." A practising lawyer can scarcely be expected to devote his time to the study of the laws of the Dominion. It is evident that, with the exception of Sir George Cartier, no minister has attempted any thing like a systematic reform of any branch of law.

Twenty-three years after the publication of the article from the Review, and the accompanying comments on it, the Editor of the Journal expresses his surprise that some Legislator had not taken up various departments or branches of the law of Ontario, and sought to treat them on some scientific principles. We may also express a like regret, for a well digested act on any branch of the law of the Province of Ontario, will, as it ought to be, be re-enacted to a great extent in the other