made. The manifest design and tendency of which is to make substantial justice paramount to *merely* technical Rules, to the free administration of unnecessary shackles in attaining its end by the speediest and simplest means.

What may be called the Court of the humble suitor, the County Courts, and the Superior Courts have been improved, *pari passu;* the country Practitioner will now find in the Local Courts a practice similar to that of the Courts at Osgoode Hall. The embarrassing distinction between the practice of these tribunals, inferior and superior, no longer prevails; and the Judges of the Inferior Courts will be, therefore, greatly aided in the discharge of their duties by the English decisions and those in our own Superior Courts, which would not have been the case had the County Courts been neglected: uniformity of procedure comes next in value to simplicity; expedition is the necessary result of the latter.

It is not to be expected that measures of such magnitude should be perfect; nor can the Statutes before us claim exemption from the general rule. We notice some few points where the intention is not quite clear—some things unprovided for, some slight errors, and one or two apparent contradictions, but nothing very important: and it also occurs to us that in some particulars additions, perhaps, might be advantageously made.

"Questions of construction," (says Mr. R. A. Harrison, in his prospectus of a work on these Acts now in the hands of the publisher) "are the sure result of every effort to apply general enactments to particular cases; light, therefore, wherever light can be obtained, is desirable." The remark is very true—and adopting it, with the consideration referred to in view, it seems desirable that questions of difficulty or matter of a doubtful meaning, arising out of the Acts, should be canvassed; and that any one who can do so, should lend his aid to resolve, as well as endeavor in every way to elucidate the provisions of the new law.

The columns of the *Law Journal*, the only legal periodical in Upper Canada, seem the appropriate place for such discusssions, so that all may participate in the benefits to be derived from an early examination. We will lend our own aid, and we invite the co-operation of professional men. Doubtless Mr. Harrison's work will be of great utility in this respect, and we anxiously look for it as a work indispensable to the Practitioner; but his will be but one mind brought to bear on the subject, and in that practical shape too, where, of necessity, brevity is required, and prolonged critical discussions would be out of place.

"Light," we repeat, "wherever light can be obtained, is desirable."

THE ENLARGED JURISDICTION IN THE COUNTY COURTS.

By the 20th section of the County Courts Procedure Act, 1856, the ordinary jurisdiction of the Court is considerably enlarged. We copy the section:—

"And whereas it is expedient to enlarge and more clearly define the jurisdiction of the several County Courts in Upper Canada—It is enacted, That for and notwithstanding anything contained in the first section of an Act of Parliament of this Province, passed in the thirteenth and fourteenth years of Her Majesty's Reign, intituled, *An Act to amend and alter the Acts regulating the practice of the County Courts in Upper Canada, and to extend the jurisdiction thereof*, or any other Act of the Parliament of this Province, the said County Courts respectively shall hold plea of all personal actions where the debt or damages claimed is not more than fifty pounds, and of all causes or suits relating to debt, covenant or contract where the amount is liquidated or ascertained by the act of the parties or the signature of the defendant, to one hundred pounds; Provided always, that the said County Courts shall not have cognizance of any action where the title to land shall be brought in question, or in which the validity of any devise, bequest or limitation under any will or settlement may be disputed, or for any libel or slander, or for criminal conversation or for seduction."

This is a clear and intelligible enactment. The professed object is twofold: first, to *enlarge;* second, to *more clearly define* the jurisdiction.

The Act of 1850 gave the Courts jurisdiction to hold plea of causes relating to *debt, covenant* or *contract*, to £50; in cases of *debt* or *contract, where the amount was ascertained* by the *signature* of the defendant, to £100; and in case of *tort* to personal chattels, to £25. This definition of the subject matter of jurisdiction excluded many cases not coming within the tecnical terms of the enactment, though obviously of less importance in their nature than the subjects *literally* covered. The object of a limit to jurisdiction is to withdraw from the Inferior Tribunals cases, with which they are not competent to deal; but the jurisdiction referred to, recognized no