

desirable. The Acts of 1857 are referred to by their chapters only, except—the new Judicature Act, and the Act amending the Municipal Corporations and Road Act, which are so important that the subjects of the several divisions adopted in the Acts themselves have been separately entered.

In preparing the Table the same distinction has been made between Public Acts and those of a Local or Private nature, as in the Index. As regards the former, every section found to be directly repealed or affected, has been mentioned: as regards the latter, the Acts amending them are referred to without entering into further details. An Act, the special purpose of which is confined to Upper Canada, is omitted in the Index, and merely referred to in the Tables by the words “Upper Canada” opposite the number of its chapter.

A later Act upon the same subject as a former one is considered as amending it, although it may merely make additional provisions upon the subject without actually repealing any thing in the prior Act: and it has been deemed convenient under the first Act upon any subject, to refer to all the Acts relating specially to the same subject.

Acts repealed by permanent Acts which have themselves been afterwards repealed, are treated as not revived by such repeal, although the usual form of words for preventing doubts as to the revival may have been omitted, unless there is something to shew the intention of the Legislature that the repealed Act should revive.

As regards Acts supposed to be “EFFETE” because nothing more remains to be done under them, the remarks in the Notice prefixed to the Index are applicable; the word merely expresses an opinion that such is in all probability the case.

When no part of an Act is deemed to be in force, this opinion is expressed and the reason assigned; but for greater facility of reference, the subject (or some part of it) of an Act supposed to be wholly or partly in force, is printed in full Capitals, and the Chapter in Roman Numerals. The date of the Royal Assent is given after the subject, except where it is the same as that of the next preceding chapter or chapters, in which case it is not repeated. When the Act has been originally temporary the letter T. is put after the subject matter as in the former Tables.

Although the Table forms a necessary part of the work ordered by the Legislative Assembly, and must have been performed by me under Mr. Gamble's Resolution whether the Statutes were further revised or not; yet, it now forms an essential part of the work of Revision, and its preparation has constituted, with the approval and assistance of my Colleagues, a very large portion of my labours as one of the Revisers. Indeed it is self evident, that the first step in revision must be an Expurgatory List separating the living from the dead and effete matter,—accounting for every Act and Section which has ever been in force, and shewing whether the whole or any part of it is still law, and if it is not, then how and when it ceased to be so. This List the Table is intended to be and this account it professes to render, subject to the modification above mentioned as regards Local and Private Acts. The consolidation of the Public Statutes which will be the result of the labours of the Commissioners will partially supersede my work, and the changes to be wrought by future legislation must soon more or less impair its utility, but it will, I hope, always remain useful as shewing how the Statute Law stood in 1857, as the former Tables and the Revised Statutes of Lower Canada will do, as a memorial of what it was in 1841.

G. W. WICKSTEED.

TORONTO, 1st November, 1857.