

In printing the work I adopted the Octavo form, now used for the Statutes, but chose rather a smaller type, for the sake of getting more upon a page, and yet leaving an ample margin, which I hold to be absolutely necessary in a work of this kind, in which every Session must of course, make changes which persons using the Index may desire to note, from time to time, more or less fully, under the proper heads. I thought it unnecessary to refer to the Acts cited, as being respectively Acts of Upper Canada or of Canada, because their dates sufficiently distinguish them: those prior to the 4 & 5 Vict. must be Acts of Upper Canada, and all the others, Acts of Canada.

Where it could be done without risking a confusion of figures, after the year of the Reign, the year of our Lord is added, there being many persons to whom the latter conveys a clearer impression than the former. I found that to add the page would only create confusion; when the chapter, Reign or year, or the A. D. are known, there will be no difficulty in finding the Act in any edition.

I strongly recommend the printing and general distribution of the Tables relative to the Statutes now or heretofore in force in Upper Canada, of which Mr. Keele is now making the fair copy, intending that they shall be ready for final revision, correction and publication as soon as possible after the close of the Session.

I at first entertained hopes of completing them, so as to make them part of the volume containing the Index; and when I found this was not possible, I thought it might be worth while to prepare so much of them as related to Acts in force, and I had a few copies printed of the part relating to Acts passed since the Union, one of which copies I annex to this Report.

But, upon further consideration, it appeared to me that the portion relative to the Acts not in force was of still greater importance, as shewing how and when they had ceased to be so, and I therefore determined to have the Tables so prepared as to include all the Acts in force or not in force, and so as to shew, with regard to each,—the Reign, year, and chapter,—whether originally permanent or temporary,—if temporary, whether continued and to what time, and by what Act or Acts, and, consequently, whether still in force or not,—and in all cases, whether any and what parts have been directly repealed or amended, and by what Act or Acts,—adding, also, as to each Act in force, references to any provisions of subsequent Statutes which might appear to have indirectly repealed, superseded, or modified any of its provisions. In fact making the Tables a brief history of all the Acts, and a brief statement of the effect of the later upon the earlier Statutes; and affording directly the information omitted or given only indirectly in the Index.

I append to this Report a copy of similar Tables which were prepared and published by the Commissioners for revising the Statutes of Lower Canada, before publishing the revised edition of those Statutes, of which, indeed, the tables formed the basis. The classification will be unnecessary in the Tables I propose, inasmuch as it has been made in the Index already published. Tables of the same nature have been prepared and in part published, by the English Commissioners for revising the Statute Law, as the first step in their work. They have adopted a more strictly Tabular form, in columns, but this seems ill-adapted to our own Octavo page and a fair-sized type, and even with a Quarto page and small type, much room would be lost, unless the information was of the most meagre kind. The form of printing is, however, still perfectly open to any suggestion for its improvement, and a better form than either of the two submitted may, perhaps, be devised when the work comes to be printed.

When Mr. Gamble made his motion, I was afraid that it would not be possible to complete and publish the index, with sufficient accuracy, within the utmost time allowable; but it has now been done, and if his original intention of renewing the index from time to time should be carried out, every re-publication will