

ventured to offer an opinion upon the construction of clauses of doubtful meaning. I have confined myself chiefly to the attempt to point out the relations between different portions of the Act, and their bearing upon each other—and to indicate where, in the English, French, and Scotch, Bankrupt Laws, and in the leading works upon them, analogous provisions and decisions may be found. Before long the light afforded by judicial decisions upon its clauses, will render the path of the commentator more easy and more safe. In the meantime, however, I trust that the materials collected in the following pages may be found not to be without value, in the investigation of the true scope and meaning of the Act. And although I feel that after the expenditure of considerable labor I have achieved but little ; I venture to hope, that the little I have been able to do, may prove in some degree useful and acceptable.

J. J. C. ABBOTT.

Montreal, October, 1864.

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