

THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE DOMINION STATUTES—RECENT DECISIONS.

is a probability of the lectures now being delivered to its members being speedily published, and rejoice that the demand for greater advantages of scientific training on the part of the rising generation of lawyers has met with due recognition in high quarters.

CIRCUMSTANTIAL evidence is said to be illusory or satisfactory "according to circumstances." It is generally, and very properly, supposed that a post-mark on a letter may be relied upon with some degree of certainty that it truly gives the date of actual stamping. A case, however, recently occurred at the post-office of a large city in Ontario, which is rather startling to a blind believer in P. O. routine. On Oct. 29 a letter was posted, and the next morning it was delivered to its proper owner, the envelope being stamped Sept. 29. Let us suppose this mistake not to be noticed for a year or so, and then the envelope to be put in evidence to prove the date of a certain occurrence, would not a jury, as a matter of course, believe the "circumstance" in preference to the oath of the most respectable witness who might state the actual date of the posting of the letter; and yet in this case the circumstance would lie and possibly be the means of doing a grievous wrong.

THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE
DOMINION STATUTES.

The Dominion Government have at last taken a step towards the consolidation of the Statutes over which the Parliament of Canada have jurisdiction, by the appointment of the Honourable James Cockburn, C.C., as "Commissioner for the preliminary revision and consolidation of the Dominion Statutory laws." During Mr. Mackenzie's administration, an appropriation was made for the purpose of this consolidation, and we believe, Mr. Thomas Langton, Barrister-

at-law, prepared some preliminary matter; but owing to the change of Government no commission was appointed, and the matter has been allowed to rest until the present time. Of the need of this work it is unnecessary to enlarge; it is simply indispensable. It will be a work of great magnitude and extreme difficulty, as it covers not only the consolidation of the Dominion Statutes passed since the time of Confederation, but includes all the statutory laws enacted by the various provinces anterior to that time, and over which the Dominion Parliament have now jurisdiction. To consolidate, revise, and harmonize such a heterogeneous mass of legislation will take considerable time, and to decide the innumerable constitutional questions involved will require the greatest possible care. We presume a commission composed of Judges and Barristers, similar to that appointed by the Ontario Government, will shortly follow, and we trust that the preliminary matter will be soon in a shape to enable them to proceed with this much needed compilation.

We congratulate the Government on securing the services of Mr. Cockburn, a gentleman eminently qualified for the careful carrying out of the difficult work appointed him. Mr. Alexander Ferguson of Ottawa will make an efficient Secretary.

RECENT DECISIONS.

Nos. 1 and 2 of Vol. 32 of our Common Pleas reports now lie before us for review. The first case is *Re Mead v. Creary*, which decides two new and important points of Division Court procedure, and which came before the full Court on return of a rule *nisi*, obtained on behalf of the primary creditor, to rescind an order for a prohibition, made in Chambers, by Cameron, J., at the instance of the garnishees, on the ground of want of jurisdiction. The case in Chambers is re-