

## THE REVISED STATUTES OF ONTARIO.

work which is included in the volume before us is the First Part, embracing the following Titles:—(1) Statutes, Form and Interpretation; (2) Territorial Divisions; (3) Constitution and Political Rights; (4) Executive Government and Public Officers; and, (5) Public Departments, Revenue, and Property. As the Acts printed in this collection relate to subjects within the legislative jurisdiction of the Dominion, consolidation was out of the question, and the aim of the Commissioners has been convenience of arrangement. To this end the Statutes relating to each particular subject, *e. g.* the Militia Acts, have been printed one after another in a series, omitting sections specifically repealed, inserting in italic notes a reference to the authority for each such omission, and indicating also the extent to which the sections which remain have been amended or otherwise affected by subsequent legislation. The work appears to have been carefully done, but there is no attempt at an index, and the system adopted by no means results in clearness and ease of reference when, as in the Act relating to the Representation of the People in Parliament, the text of the original Statute loses itself completely in the abundance of notes which “do but encumber what they would enrich.”

The expediency of publishing for general distribution so small a fragment of the work entrusted to the Commissioners appears to us extremely questionable, but perhaps it is done upon the principle “*ex pede Herculem*,” and we are quite willing to believe that the whole collection had it ever been completed, would have been equal to the specimen submitted in the present volume.

Of the collection of Imperial Statutes included in the second of these volumes, we cannot speak so highly. From the inscription on the title-page, we learn

that it was prepared by Messrs. G. H. Watson and G. L. B. Fraser, barristers-at law, under the direction of a Committee of the Statute Commissioners.

Knowing the composition of the Commission to have been chiefly judicial, we criticise with great deference, but it occurs to us first that a much more systematic arrangement of the Statutes dealt with would have been possible. We miss altogether from this volume the helps afforded in all the others by the scheme of classification printed at the beginning not only of each volume, but of each title, and even at the head of every Act, and the only key to the somewhat heterogeneous collection is an index at the end, and a short list of Acts at the beginning. From these we learn that of the 346 pages included in the volume, 204 are taken up by the Merchant Shipping Acts, 39 by the British North America Act of 1867—which, by the way, also appears, properly enough, in Vol. I of the Revised Statutes—and some 50 pages at the end of the volume, by the Acts respecting Naturalization, Extradition and Foreign Enlistment. In these last pages the want of arrangement is painfully manifest, the B. N. A. Act, 1867, being given at pp. 246 to 284, inclusive, and the amending Acts of 1871 and 1875 inserted at p. 331 and p. 346 respectively, interspersed among several short Statutes relating to Naturalization, Extradition, and Foreign Enlistment, in “most admired disorder,” and without any note or cross-reference to aid the bewildered inquirer.

But by far the most important defect is the entire omission from the work of many if not most of the very Statutes which most imperatively require republication in order to be readily accessible both to lawyers and laymen.

It is evident from the title of the collections as well as from the very small