

SYNOPSIS
OF THE
CHANGES IN THE LAW
EFFECTED BY
THE CIVIL CODE OF LOWER CANADA.

I.

The completion of the Civil Code of Lower Canada is an event which forms an epoch in our history, and is suggestive of many considerations.

In the retrospect, it brings to mind the long and arduous labor, the study, research and learning bestowed upon the work, by the eminent legists entrusted with its elaboration; it announces the successful attainment of a result, aimed at by the enlightened patriotism, and achieved by the ability and persevering energy of a statesman whose name must ever remain connected with the Code; and it presents to us our civil laws rescued from antiquity and chaos, and embodied in a form which renders them accessible and intelligible to all classes of the people whose rights and property they control.

Prospectively, the Civil Code promises uniformity of juris-

prudence, which contributes to diminish litigation and add to the stability and security of our civil rights. It offers great additional means of legal education, from which may be expected a higher standard of professional excellence. It will ensure among the individual members of society a more intimate acquaintance with their reciprocal rights and obligations, tending to increase and facilitate business relations, and to promote the material welfare of the community. Moreover, as a conservatory barrier against the continual inroads of fragmentary legislation, it is an earnest of stability in the law itself.

In view of a union of the British American provinces, the codification of our laws is perhaps better calculated than any other available means to secure to Lower Canada an advantage which the proposed plan of confederation appears to have already contemplated,