

NOTICE.

The following Table is published under the resolution of the Legislative Assembly of the 8th May, 1856, adopting the recommendation of the Committee to whom my report had been referred. It is that adverted to in the Notice prefixed in the Index to the Statutes in force in Lower Canada, as necessary to exhibit clearly the result of the revision which the order to prepare that work had obliged me to undertake, and to afford directly that information as to what Acts and parts of Acts are or are not in force, which can only be gathered indirectly from the Index. The Table and the Index supplement and check each other, the former affording fuller information as regards the Statutes and parts of Statutes not in force, and the latter as regards those in force. Any Act referred to in the Index can be found at once in the Tables, in its place according to date and chapter; and if fuller information be required than the Table furnishes as to the provisions of any Act in force, it will be found under the same Title in the Index, where a brief note of the subject of each section in force is entered.

The object of the Table is not to shew what any Act under consideration itself provides, (for this appears on the face of the Act which is supposed to be before the reader,) but how its provisions are affected by later Acts which are not before him. This could, however, be done only so far as their action upon it is direct and susceptible of being briefly stated, for it would be impossible in any moderate space, to trace the indirect effect of every Act upon every other; there are probably, for instance, few Statutes connected with the administration of the law which will not be in some way or other incidentally affected or modified by the new Judicature Act of 1857, (cap. 44,) when it comes fully into force.

The Index having been published before the Table, and containing a brief summary of every section of every Public Act in force, and the Acts on the same subject being arranged in it under the same Title so that reference can easily be made from one to the other, it was thought unnecessary (even had time permitted) to enter into quite so much detail as to the effect of one Act upon another, as is contained in the former Tables to the Acts and Ordinances then in force in Lower Canada, which were published without an Index and before the publication of the Revised Statutes. Indeed the main object of the present Table, is rather to account for the repealed and expired Acts and parts of Acts, and to shew how they ceased to be in force, (which the Index does not generally do,) than to shew the existing Statute Law, which is more fully given in the Index.

If the information now given could have preceded or accompanied the Index, I should have felt more at liberty as to the form of the latter, and could perhaps have improved it for some purposes by dividing the Acts more and entering their provisions under a greater number of special titles. There is, however, considerable advantage in referring to the whole of an Act under one title, in an Index not attached to the volume containing such Act; and the important object of enabling every one to test for himself and easily, whether the Index is or is not correct in treating any Act or part of an Act as in force or not in force, will be at least equally well attained by the form and order of publication actually adopted.

The Table comes down to the present time, including the Acts of 1857, and their effect on former Acts: and as the changes made by these Acts in the Index are important, a brief continuation of that work to the same period is added, including not only the additions and corrections consequent on the said Acts, but the *Errata* in the original work, and some references from one part of it to another which appeared