

they have every reason to believe that it cannot exceed six hundred pages in each language, and that it will probably be comprised in a smaller number;—and for obvious reasons, they recommend that it should be published in each language separately. The question as to the best form for the publication has engaged the attention of the commissioners; and in selecting the royal octavo, they have been guided as well by the general preference shown by the profession for books in that form, as by the fact, that the revised statutes of the several legislatures in the United States which have come under their notice are published in it. The commissioners have selected the revised statutes of Massachusetts for their immediate model, as affording on the whole the best specimen of size, printing and arrangement.

At the same time that the octavo form and the type chosen, are more convenient than the quarto form and the type now used in printing the laws, they have also the advantage of being cheaper; for although the charge for the composition will be the same, the cost of the paper, an item of no small consequence when a large number of copies are to be printed, will be greatly reduced.

It would have been possible to commence the reprint now recommended at the same time with the publication of the tables, but it would have been impossible to complete it before the commencement of the present session. The commissioners held it to be of great importance, that the work should contain the laws as they stood at some one definite period; and if the printing had been begun before the session, the work would not only have been deficient on this point, but as the laws which may be repealed during the session must have been inserted, there is every probability that greatly increased expense would have been added to inaccuracy. They have ascertained that by commencing it as early as possible after the close of the session, they will be able to complete it before the opening of the next, if the recess be of the ordinary length.

If to the publication in question there could be added a reprint of such parts of the custom of Paris as are still in force in Lower Canada, with an English version sufficiently clear to make the provisions of the custom intelligible to those unacquainted with the French language, the value of the work would be considerably enhanced; but much care, time and labour would be requisite in preparing this addition, and the commissioners fear that it could not be got ready so early as not to retard the publication. It seems very desirable that some means should be adopted for making the civil law of Lower Canada accessible to the English portion of the population. It is not within the province of the commissioners to discuss the best means of doing this, or to enter upon the subject of codification; but they have been induced to make this suggestion from their conviction, that the prejudice entertained by many to the civil law of Lower Canada, arises solely from their want of the means of obtaining that general knowledge of its provisions, which it is desirable to place within the reach of every man with regard to the law by which he is bound, but which, under existing circumstances, it is impossible for any inhabitant of Lower Canada to acquire, unless he be intimately acquainted with the French language. The same difficulty existed, and to a certain extent still exists, with regard to the criminal law,