

## TO THE READER.

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THIS work, originally estimated to contain not more than from 12 to 1400 pages, has swelled to upwards of 2900. The estimate of the Public General Law approximated very nearly to the truth. No satisfactory data existed upon which an estimate could be formed of the Public Local Law. A general knowledge of that, is not presumed to be known by the oldest and most experienced of the profession. Its aggregate can only be ascertained by minute, patient and a most uninteresting research.

The course of our legislation is to alter, by scraps detached here and there, difficult to be found, and very frequently impracticable to be reconciled with preceding enactments. This practice has contributed much to the increase of this work, by rendering indispensable a re-print of sections which have been modified, but which are requisite to be known to arrive at a correct knowledge of *what* the law is.

The notes, *very full*, to the chapters, but indispensable, to enable the reader to trace subsequent alterations, have contributed much to increase the pages. In the thousands of references, it would be folly to hope that in the first edition no error should occur;\* but every effort has been made to guard against them. Wherever an omission in the text has been discovered, it has been corrected in the Index, by inserting the omitted article.

I have assumed with fear and trembling, the responsibility of giving to the Constitution a new arrangement, by distributing under familiar titles, all of the constitutional provisions connected with that title, so that the reader may find all of the Constitution, relating thereto, ar-

\* There is an error in the second note to sec. 4, of 1791, ch. 68, p. 279, which may be corrected by reference to the laws relating to appeals.