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P R E F A C E.

THESE volumes have been compiled and published under the direction of the Legislature of Maryland, and contain all the Acts of Assembly, except private Acts, now in force in this State.

The statutes of Maryland, embracing all the legislation from the first settlement of the State, and covering a period of more than a century and a half, were scattered through more than forty volumes, so that it was difficult and expensive to procure them, and from the numerous supplements, repeals and re-enactments, it was no easy matter to ascertain what was the law. These and other reasons, induced a provision in the new Constitution, requiring the Legislature to appoint Commissioners to revise and codify the Acts of Assembly. In pursuance of this provision, the General Assembly, in eighteen hundred and fifty-three, appointed OTHO SCOTT, and HIRAM M'CULLOUGH, *Commissioners*, and these gentlemen reported the result of their labors to the Session of eighteen hundred and sixty. Their report was contained in two volumes; the first volume comprising all the Public General Laws, in articles and sections, and arranged alphabetically; and the second containing all the Public Local Laws, arranged by counties, in alphabetical order. At the Session of eighteen hundred and sixty, the Legislature adopted the volumes reported by the Commissioners and repealed all the previous legislation of the State, making these two volumes comprise all the Acts of Assembly in force, and abolishing all not contained in them. The same Legislature appointed the undersigned to superintend the printing of the Code thus adopted, and to incorporate into it the Acts of the Session of eighteen hundred and sixty, and prepare an Index to the whole. By the same Act, JOHN MURPHY, of the city of Baltimore, was appointed to print, and publish the work.