

I N T R O D U C T I O N.

These directions have been his general guide; but he deems it necessary to give a particular explanation of the manner in which he has applied them in the prosecution of his undertaking.

When the titles only of laws are given, notes are made under the private acts, and under those which are repealed or have expired; and those acts under which no notes are made, are to be considered as having (in the words of the resolution,) ceased to have any operation.

The continuances of acts originally passed for a limited time have been carefully traced and noted; and it is only necessary to remark, that in order to avoid the frequent repetition of continuances beyond the date, "to the end of the next session thereafter," that mode of continuance is designated in the notes by an &c.

The index has been particularly attended to, and no exertion has been wanting to render it conformable to the desire of the legislature, as expressed in their resolution.

The laws prior to the session of 1765, having been before examined, were printed as they stood in the former edition; after the correction of some errors of the press; and the laws since that period have been compared and examined with the records in the office of the general court, and (where it was practicable,) with the original bills.

It has been necessary, under the terms of the resolution, to procure copies of, and to print, some of the laws which had been heretofore omitted; but in order to avoid the alternative of printing long acts which might have ceased to operate, or giving only the titles, where a knowledge of the object might be required, some of the abstracts in the former editions, respecting towns and parishes, have been retained.

The charter is printed, with the translation, as heretofore published. The bill of rights, and the constitution, are inserted, with the alterations which have been made to them. They have been carefully traced, and are noted under such parts as they appear to have affected, with references to the particular acts, which are inserted in the order in which they passed, and collectively at the end of the constitution.

The constitution of the general government, and the amendments, are copied from those published during the year seventeen hundred and ninety-nine by order of the house of representatives; but it did not appear essential to note the amendments under the different sections.

The declaration of independence, and the articles of confederation, are published in the order which the resolution prescribes.

The size of the paper and the type, appeared, on consideration, to be the best adapted to the nature and extent of the work. It has from necessity filled two volumes; and from the expediency of placing the whole of the index in the second, the several public instruments have been prefixed to the laws, in the first.

With these observations, the edition of the laws prepared under the above resolutions, is respectfully submitted to the general assembly.

W. KILTY.

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