

should believe for a moment, that any lawyer reads the whole of these reports; it would not benefit them. I was much struck with an answer I received from a friend when I had asked him whether he read much or not? He answered, No! because it prevents me from thinking. It is the grappling and grasping what a man does read, that benefits him. Some men overloaded the stomach; the effect is an attack of dyspepsia; some overload the brain, that is equally congestive. But my honorable friend himself proves that the study of the law requires not the whole of a man's time; he collects his statistics on every variety of subject, attends to his legislative duties, and pursues his law avocations also. The honorable gentleman referred to Demosthenes. That celebrated Athenian orator took much pains with himself; he was afflicted with an impediment in his speech, and to cure that he went upon the sea-shore; and with the green hills of his country behind him, while the waves of the ocean rolled in and dashed their foam upon the strand, with pebbles in his mouth, he declaimed till his utterance was free. My honorable and learned friend might, with much benefit to himself, follow the example of Demosthenes. He told us he "intended to take a practical and comprehensive view of the question," and then at once come to "the division of the fees." Then he told us that Erskine was a very good *nisi-prius* pleader, but made a wretched bad chancellor; that Sir James Mackintosh was a good historian, but no lawyer; and as for Macaulay, he was no lawyer at all. Now what did the honorable gentleman mean by all this? He surely did not mean to assert that we have men at the bar of Nova Scotia their equals. But the argument tells against him, for they all studied law under the old system. Sir, I seldom enter the supreme court; but I have never gone there but matter for deep reflection has attracted my attention. Some poor devil is arraigned for his life; he has opposed to him one of the ablest men in the Province, my honorable friend the Attorney General. The judge, smiling upon some young barrister of perhaps a year's standing, assigns him as counsel for the defence; upon the issue of that trial, depends that prisoner's *life*. Sir, I feel that I am wearying the committee, and that I have not done this subject justice. Had it been in the hands of those more intimately acquainted with it in all its details, I doubt not but it would have passed by an overwhelming majority. What its fate may now be, I know not. I hope, however, that it may have friends enough to tide it over. Sir, I have outlived the paltry ambition of attempting to gather popularity around *myself*. I desire to clothe those with whom I am associated with all the popularity I may achieve, and I seek from them but the same sympathy and support. Earlier in life I may have