have been more appropriately filled by men whose judgments they now review.

Surely these things ought not so to be! The common people are not slow to mark the difference in the conduct of the business of the courts by judges of different mental calibre and equipment, and they wonder—as strangers competent to judge often do—at anomalous contrasts. Experience at the Bar; still better, where practicable, some experience on the Bench of a lower court; a knowledge of affairs, as well as legal erudition, are necessary to the successful administration of justice in a court of the qualities and jurisdiction of the Supreme Courts of the Maritime Provinces.

I make these remarks in no spirit of carping, and in no feeling of disrespect to our Supreme Court, or to any particular member of it, nor of hostility to those who have wielded the patronage of these offices; but because, in common with the Bar and the public in many parts of the Province, I entertain the opinion that the interests of the public and the strength of the Bench have appreciably suffered in the particular referred to, and that, good and efficient as our Supreme Court is, it might have been made still more efficient by the recognition of merit in the lower court. I doubt if there is a lawyer in Nova Scotia who will deny this. With all deference, I do not think a majority out of any four of the seven County Court judges would have given, for instance, such a decision as three judges of our Supreme Court gave in the case of *Wyman et al.* v. *The Imperial Fire Insurance Company et al.*, reported in 20 N.S. Reports, p. 487.

Your obedient servant,

Nova Scotia, December, 1893. LEX.