

robust work of the world and the accomplishment of noble purposes which end in things well done and not in dreams. Time was when the lawyer was regarded as aloof from the practical affairs of the world, as the learned and dignified aristocrat of society who did not concern himself with the daily duties of common life or the struggle of the people to improve their condition. Now, in our democratic country the members of the profession are not only with the people, but of the people, working among men, advising in their personal affairs, sympathising in their efforts, guiding in their business, aiding in their social movements for reform, taking share in all the departments of public government, yet, withal, maintaining the professional ideals of the past, their intellectual attainments, dignity, strength of honour and independence of character, which will not cringe before courts or be carried away by popular emotions or a hostile press. The statement made by Thomas Lord Erskine can be repeated by most members of our profession to-day:—

"I will forever at all hazards assert the dignity, independence and integrity of the English Bar without which impartial justice, the most valuable part of the English constitution, can have no existence."

We do not claim that all members of the Bar are fearless, learned, faithful in the discharge of their duties and governed by the best ethics. We do not contend that all are impartial and of judicial mind or that, as opportunity offers, all wisely and unselfishly endeavour to improve our laws and the administration of justice, for there are some who, looking backward, see only good in the past and refuse to move, while others, closing their ears to the voice of experience, would create all things new on an *a priori* basis. But the aim and effort and trend of the profession is toward its ennoblement and its usefulness. Sir Walter Scott, who by the way was a lawyer, made a fair criticism of our profession and it is as applicable now as in his time:—

"In a profession where unbounded trust is necessarily im-