

volving principles of constitutional, commercial and financial law, arising from the changes in our political system, and the vast development of municipal institutions, railroad and public companies. It is grateful to me to hear your expressed opinion that the judiciary have dealt with the larger questions coming before them, consequent on the upward progress of the country, with judgment and ability, to the satisfaction and confidence of the community.

I, who have seen all the phases of change, amendment and expansion, can bear witness to the efforts constantly and successfully made to administer the law as the Legislature, from time to time, provided. I was for years conversant with the old system first fatally assailed by what may be called the great reform bill, the admirable Common Law Procedure Act. I have combated in those pleasant pastures where that picturesque animal, the special demurrer, flourished luxuriantly, and those long deceased offspring of legal imagination, John Doe and Richard Roe, fought their battle over all the disputed possessions in the Province. They have all passed away without much lament, but it is only fair to say that the old system of precisely framed pleadings and issues had most salutary effects on the careful preparation of a case for trial, and the greater certainty in its hearing and decision. Much has been wisely and excellently done to abolish useless form and fiction, but I fear that the result has, unfortunately, not greatly lessened the cost of litigation. But all such views may now be regarded as the prejudices of an old fashioned 'laudator temporis acti,' who must not be allowed to maunder longer over the days of old.

It is a momentous event in an old man's life, when his connection with the profession, followed with engrossing attention through all his long life of service, is finally severed, but his retrospect may be lighted up by pleasant memories, and his remnant of life be cheered by unbroken personal friendships and the sympathies of faithful friends. It has been well said in a pleasant old rhyme, that for such as I, there remains but

'A valley to cross, a river to ford,
A clasp of the hand, and a parting word,
And a sigh for the vanished past'

Till my time comes to cross the valley of the shadow and to ford the dark river, my most cherished memory will be the kindly clasps of the hand and the still more kindly words that have greeted me to-day. My warmest wish will always be that all present and future occupants of the Bench of Ontario may enjoy as fully as I have enjoyed, the kindness, courtesy and respect extended to me through my long protracted judicial life."

Chief Justice Burton, Mr. Justice Gwynne and Sir Thomas Galt also spoke shortly, expressing their pleasure at being present on this auspicious occasion. Mr. Christopher Robinson, Q.C., and Mr. W. R. Riddell were respectively the efficient chairman and secretary of the Committee of the Benchers of the Law Society, which had charge of the proceedings.