

or moulded by lawyers, and that they should have left themselves exposed to any such liability.

There is but one way open to us towards the rectification of our peculiar evil. We can never largely get into the position of law-makers ; but we do, from time to time, stand in the position of makers of law-makers : and were we but true to ourselves, and did we but realize towards our honorable calling, that loyalty which we all owe it, we should soon learn how to set about redressing our own grievances—may we never hope for so devoutly to be wished for a consummation ? To organizations such as yours, gentlemen, established and sustained over the whole length and breadth of this young Dominion, and to the good sense, perseverance and fraternal devotion of our entire body, and to no other instrumentality under heaven, must we look for protection or elevation. If we are but true to ourselves, we need to fear for nothing ; if we forget to respect and honor ourselves, we must sink into disrespect and dishonor, and to whatever extent we have already progressed in this direction, to no other agencies than our own petty squabbles and misunderstandings may we ascribe our depression.

I cannot believe that we are in point of general intelligence or of moral rectitude, inferior to either of the learned sister Professions, certainly in warmth of heart and practical benevolence we stand very far above them. What is it, then, that we lack in order to give us that unity of purpose and harmony of action, which the Bar, at least, if hardly the Pulpit, presents to our admiration ? I feel assured that this is one of our greatest wants, and therefore do I rejoice in the prosperous working of your section, and of all similar unions.

Whilst, however, I would earnestly advocate in our Profession a stronger social cohesion, I would by no means have it understood that our bond of fraternization should involve any condition incompatible with sound public morality and the best interests of society. We know too well that in our flock are some—very few, I hope—black sheep. A small percentage of these, from time to time, delegated to the Penitentiary, will, it is to be hoped, awaken public attention to a species of *mal practice* calling for cogent suppressive measures. I allude, of course, to the unnatural crime of *feticide* or provoked abortion which is of far more extensive prevalence than many persons may believe. It has unquestionably crept into Canada from the neighbouring States, where it is now, by a very large proportion of the people, regarded as an expediency of domestic economy, rather than a violation of either divine or human law. It is at this moment the freely declared belief of eminent American statisticians that, what from the results of this wide-spread practice,