

and fought through, with becoming gravity, and is still the law of the land. It is entitled "An Act to authorise Her Majesty's subjects to plead and reason for themselves or others in all Her Majesty's courts within this Province."

We give one or two speeches by which this novel measure was defended. The absence of any table, by which fees are now divided between barristers and attorneys, and of any previous examination, had been urged as objections.

Mr. Howe replied. I will answer the question of the honorable gentleman. I would abandon this restriction, because in point of fact it is not worth a rush. I could point to six or seven barristers, who have gone through this ordeal, and have been admitted to the bar of Nova Scotia, who are hardly a grade above the idiot, or fit to herd geese upon a common. With respect to the fees, I do not expect that any layman will go into our courts to practice law for fees. If he will, he ought to have the right. My learned friend strangely mistakes the object of my measure, if he supposes that I contemplate or care what becomes of the fees. I seek to reclaim and establish a common right, for great public ends and advantages; to give to the poor and oppressed, the shelter of unpaid advocacy and defence. I ask him if there were any such monopoly in Greece or Rome, as exists in Nova Scotia?

Mr. Harrington. Yes, there was.

Mr. Howe. But, I say no! There were no such restrictions in those illustrious nations; nations that have sent down to us the very foundations of our laws, and the noblest specimens of forensic preëminence. It will be admitted that Demosthenes was a pretty good lawyer, and one of the best orators known in the annals of history. At the age of seventeen, he walked into the courts of his country, and won back his inheritance from the guardians who were mismanaging his estate. But Demosthenes was never cooped up in an attorney's office for five years, poring over old musty volumes of almost forgotten lore; he studied after a very different fashion. The son of a sword cutler, he studied rhetoric and philosophy, in the schools of Socrates and Plato, who were not attorneys, but philosophers, travellers, men of enlarged minds, and of experience in the world, rather than in courts. Then, if the Greeks, who have handed down to us such brilliant examples of genius without any such study and no such monopoly, is not Nova Scotia just the country in which to try the experiment? Now take