

ever law was passed, lawyers, who by virtue of their profession are loyal subjects, would recognise the fact that their primary duty is to enforce the law, yet, without professing any canting view about men being absolutely regardless of their own interests, I believe that that which makes the law cheaper and more popular is ultimately to the personal advantage of members of the profession of the law. You have heard from Lord Chelmsford—and I am delighted to hear him in such an assembly as this, in which I will venture to say that the name of Thesiger must ever be dear—what those whose hearts beat beneath red coats will and can do on behalf of their Queen and country. Some of the most important questions of the world that have ever been decided have been decided in the Courts of law as well as on the field of battle; and as long as you have brave soldiers, loyal subjects, and able and courageous lawyers to fight your battles on fields of battle, in Courts of law, and at sea, you will maintain that same position you have hitherto maintained, not simply by mere brute violence and force, but by the recognition of this great fact, which all in this great hall ought to recognise—that in the result and in the end, truth and justice will finally prevail.

The President, in proposing the toast of 'The Bench and the Bar,' adopted the words of Lord Justice Bowen, used on a recent occasion, that 'justice is administered in this country, immaculate, unspotted, and unsuspected. There is no human being whose smile or frown, no Government, Conservative or Liberal, whose favour or disfavour could start the pulse of an English judge upon the bench or move by one hair's breadth the even equipoise of the scales of justice.' The bar is the portal by which alone the bench is approached and gained, and the bench is the reward of honourable and successful exertion at the bar. As we venerate and respect the bench, so we honour and respect the bar from which our judges proceed.

Lord Esher, in responding for the bench, said: I and the other judges present are here for ourselves and on behalf of all of us to assist in this admirably imagined mode

of doing honour to the Queen. We are here, not only as guests, but as fellow-members of the same profession. It is true that our profession is divided into three parts, but the profession is one, and, except when on duty, we are equally members of that one profession. That profession is one of high and peculiar trust, and must be practised not merely with honesty, but with the most scrupulous and delicate honour. That honour strikes us in different ways. The judge knows of nothing in the profession but what is brought before him in a public Court. His honour, therefore, only requires of him that he shall spare no pains or trouble to come to a right decision. The barrister knows of no circumstances in his profession but those which are contained in his brief; but he has a most severe responsibility in determining how much of that which is in his brief shall be disclosed. That which he thinks right not to disclose in Court, he is bound in honour never to disclose at all. But the solicitor, from the necessity of the case, is made to know circumstances of the most delicate kind, and if he were to betray the secrets which must be entrusted to him, he would in many cases destroy the peace of families, and in others the fortunes of multitudes of people. It is upon that division of our profession, therefore, that the delicacy of trust of which I have spoken weighs most heavily, and I am here to-day in order to testify to my most earnest belief and conviction that that delicacy of trust is rarely, if ever, betrayed. I am here on behalf of Her Majesty's judges to say that we come here as members of our one profession for the purpose of showing the respect which we feel, and which everybody feels, for the division to which the great majority of this company belong.

The Attorney-General, in responding for the bar, said: The bench, the bar, and solicitors each have their respective duties. These respective branches and duties have existed for hundreds of years. There will, I have no doubt, be some changes, but I hope none of us will ever be tempted to break down that particular line of difference which now exists between solicitors and the bar. Let the facilities for changing from one branch