

THIS increase of jurisdiction is a favourite effort on the part of laymen in parliament whereby to immortalize themselves. It is always popular to bring justice to every man's door by enlarging the scope of Division Courts, especially when the result is to cut down lawyers' fees, and the same holds good, to a certain extent, to County Courts. We are compelled, unhappily, to pay some attention to the lay element in the House, as they are the exponents of the levelling spirit of the age, and they have votes, and party politicians exist by these votes. We may consider ourselves lucky if we can keep Osgoode Hall over our heads, and be allowed to conserve for a little longer the limited privileges we enjoy. It should be clearly understood that the interests of the public are bound up with these so-called privileges, which simply mean a highly-trained Bench and Bar. Some cannot, or do not care to see that anything which directly or indirectly lowers the standard must work a more serious injury to the public than to the profession.

---

#### THE PRIVY COUNCIL ON BANKRUPTCY.

It was observed by Taschereau, J., in *Attorney-General v. Mercer*,\* that it is but right, for obvious reasons, that the final and authoritative determination of controversies on the construction of the British North America Act, which is an Imperial statute, should emanate from an Imperial judicial authority; and in his judgment just delivered in the pardoning-power case, as it is commonly called, at present unreported, the same learned judge observes that constitutional questions cannot be finally determined in the Supreme Court, that they never have been, and never can be, under the present system. Perhaps no decision of the Judicial Committee has been awaited with more interest, at all events in the profession, than that which is reported in the present number of this JOURNAL in reference to the Assignments and Preferences Act, upon which it is now proposed to make some comments.

It would, indeed, possess little more than an historical interest to pass in review the various judgments which have been delivered in our courts upon the constitutionality of this Act; but, as

\* 5 S.C.R., at p. 673; 3 Cart., at p. 56.