

The Barrister.

VOL. I.

TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1894.

No. 1.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

WITH this number the BARRISTER makes its bow to the lawyers of Canada, and asks the indulgence of a profession which has always extended a cordial support to all journals devoted to its interests.

IT may be thought by some that there is no need for an additional law journal; we believe there is room without encroaching upon the field occupied by the present journals.

THE law profession has suffered, and is suffering from many causes and it shall be our aim to discuss these and to try and arrive at a solution.

WE invite members of the profession to make use of the pages of the BARRISTER to express their views upon any question affecting law and lawyers. One of the things we shall advocate first and last is the formation of Provincial Bar Associations. We believe that these would be of the greatest benefit to the profession.

IF the lawyers of a province formed themselves into an association and conscientiously devoted one or two days in each year to advancing the common interest and the interest of good government, no public opinion could withstand their advocacy of a righteous cause.

IN these days of union and combination of all kinds, colors and degrees, it is a lamentable fact that individual effort, however intellectual and unself-

ish it may be, is powerless to obtain needed legislative relief.

ALL the lawyers of a province acting as individuals would we fear have much less weight in obtaining legislation upon any subject than would be accorded to a less numerous but organized body. Assailed as we are by concerted opposition of all kinds, we must recognize that we are to-day confronting a condition and not a theory, and the more promptly it is met and remedies applied from within, the grander will be the results achieved. Many of the Provincial Statute Books exhibit year after year crude additions to existing laws, many of them needless, others harmful or at best of doubtful benefit. Here is a large field for law reform. Like legislation upon matters in which the provinces have a kindred interest is of living importance to the community and in particular to our merchants. This will be the chosen field of a Dominion Bar Association, the natural outgrowth of provincial organizations.

IT is our intention to insert a series of articles on the leaders of the Canadian Bar, past and present. We shall for the most part select such as have been distinguished for their meritorious elevation from the humbler to the higher ranks of the profession. Our reason for this preference is obvious. We shall especially note the early life of these ornaments of the law and the means by which their rise was promoted and detail the difficulties they overcame. Even the general reader will feel an interest in such a career. These