

*THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL OF ENGLAND.*

Osgoode Hall, Toronto, was honoured on the 21st inst. by a visit from the Right Hon. Sir Frederick Edwin Smith, Bart., K.C., M.P., Attorney-General of England. Convocation Hall at Osgoode Hall was filled with a large number of Judges and members of the Bar desirous of meeting and greeting the distinguished stranger, though not as he said a stranger to all as some of those present had met him at the little room in Downing St. where sits that august body known as the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, which so often hears the voice of this prominent advocate who holds so many briefs from outlying possessions of the British Empire.

Dr. Hoskin, K.C., LL.D., Treasurer of the Upper Canada Law Society, together with Mr. E. F. B. Johnston, K.C., representing the Canadian Bar Association, the Presidents of the Ontario Bar Association and the County of York Bar Association received the guest and conducted him to the Hall where the Treasurer made some observations appropriate to the occasion, congratulating the Bar on having with them one so distinguished and occupying so high a position in the profession.

We give our readers a full report of the answering speech of Sir Frederick. Without any attempt at oratory and speaking quietly, as though dictating to a stenographer, he spoke in the manner which has become traditional with those holding high positions in the British House of Commons. After some introductory observations, he said:—

"I suppose in one sense this is a lawyer's war. People who do not understand law often throw sneers at lawyers and they often, in desiring to make the sneer more cutting, prefix the adjective political. Those same people when in difficulties of their own, however, are the first to seek advice from the lawyers they previously attacked. Moreover, wherever democratic conditions obtain lawyers are running the countries.

"As I understand it this war is on behalf of democracy and with the object, in the words of President Wilson, of keeping the world free for democracy." The growth of democracy was due in large measure to the power attained by lawyers.