

disburse about \$25. This falling off in litigation is at least probably in part due to the abounding prosperity of the Province, and if this be so we trust the profession is finding in other classes of business some compensation for the drop in litigious business.

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#### *MAY A WOMAN SIT IN PARLIAMENT ?*

The acceptance of her nomination by the returning officer, and the going before the electors of Miss Haile, as candidate of the Socialist League in North Toronto directs public attention to an interesting question. With the view sanctioned by judicial decision in England, when Mrs. Darwin was proposed by the same organization that she could not qualify, the electorate had some reason to anticipate his declining to allow her candidature. Had he chosen, as he certainly had sufficient warrant for doing, to nip the young lady's ambition in the bud, his action would have evoked no general complaint; for, if none of her opponents had been returned by a majority greater than the number of votes given for her, the trouble of a controverted election would have been entailed on the constituency.

In communities where the British scheme of representation prevails, authority distinctly pronounces against the eligibility in the absence of statutory enactment of women for membership in deliberative bodies, which have cognizance of matters of state as out of harmony with the genius of our institutions.

From the time of Selden, juriconsults, tracing the origin and examining the constitution of the mother of parliaments, express the like opinion, showing that, for a considerable period before the order of three estates in the realm was introduced, no woman could exert a direct influence upon the politics—interfere in any way to shape the destinies—of the kingdom. She, as we learn from Kemble's Saxons in Parliaments, might, however, though unable to vote, assist in conferences of the Witenagemot by watching the course of proceedings and tendering advice. How this latter was to be realized in practice is, unfortunately, not made known. One cannot easily imagine a channel other than that of debate, in which, of course, she was not allowed to participate, through which the counsel might pass. It is a little surprising that Sir Thomas Erskine May, in his comprehensive work on Parliamentary usage,