

*solatium* at the time available; or as an inexpensive mode of pleasing one who is a political supporter by the appointment of some local ally of his in the legal fraternity. This sort of thing is of course an insult to the profession, and makes a laughing-stock of the Minister of Justice, who is, we presume, the responsible person. Sir John Thompson of course knows nothing personally or professionally of most of the appointees, and it is really hardly fair to perpetrate such a practical joke upon a stranger to the profession in Ontario. We must say that by his recommending some of the persons for the rank of Q.C. he has materially lowered the standard which regulated the appointment prior to 1867, or even prior to 1874. Some of the names in the last list are good; some, indeed, should have been remembered long ago; some are almost unknown outside of their own localities; and, of some few, the less said about their professional reputation the better.

The profession in England, we have been told, are beginning to judge of their brethren in Canada, and that unfavourably, by reason of the natural supposition that those who hold the office of Q.C. in this country are, as a whole, superior to those who do not. We think we may safely say that this is, not the fact; and it is eminently unfair to those who *are* entitled to the distinction to be classed with those who *are not* so entitled.

It is now generally conceded that the Ontario Government should place itself in a position to appoint Queen's Counsel. They have recently tried their hand at a selection of names, and their list, which is on the whole a good one, appears to be generally acceptable to the Bar of Ontario. It is in this respect in striking contrast to that of the Dominion Government. At the same time we must reiterate our often expressed opinion that the distinction should be confined to the few and not given to the many: and if this be so there are several names on this list which have no claim to be there. The fact is, as one of the leaders of the Ontario Bar recently remarked, it would be much better to abolish the title of Queen's Counsel altogether, as it has now lost all the distinctive merit it once possessed.

A subscriber, oppressed by the same feeling of disgust as many others, makes a suggestion which has some interest in this connection. It is that the old title of Sergeant-at-law should be restored. We give his thought in his own words: "We have any number of Q.C.'s, indeed so many that that title is fast losing any significance. This being the case, a higher title, demanding greater attainments and respectability, such as the one indicated, ought to be of great service to the profession. In common with many others of the profession, I would be much pleased to see in your columns the opinions of others on this important subject."