We believe it is an open secret that a very considerable body of the Benchers were very strongly opposed to the admission of women to practise as solicitors, and they were practically dragooned into passing the rules for the admission of women as solicitors very much against the convictions as to the propriety of so doing.

The statute as amended ostensibly still leaves it to the discretion of the Law Society of Ontario to make rules for the admission of women to the Bar, but it is quite possible that the Benchers will be given to understand that their discretion is one which must be understood in a Pickwickian sense, and, if they do not choose to exercise it in conformity with the will of the Government of the day, the Legislature will incontinently ride rough shod over them at the next opportunity.

In view of the error which has been made in the Act of 1892 in the name of the Society, it is quite possible that the Act and the rules passed thereunder are null and void, and the legislative enactment to effectually admit women to practise either as solicitors or barristers still remains to be passed.

But assuming that, notwithstanding the error we have pointed out, the Law Society of Upper Canada is invited to make rules for the admission of women to the Bar, we may point out that if there were reasons against admitting them as solicitors, there are some still stronger ones against their being admitted to the Bar.

Admission to the Bar means a qualification for the Bench. To allow women to be called to the Bar, and to deny to them the legitimate aspiration of attaining a seat on the Bench, would seem unreasonable. The question, then, is, Is the public prepared to see, and is it in the public interest that it should see, female judges on the Bench?

We are firmly persuaded that neither the one nor the other is the case, and the only legitimate way of keeping women off the Bench is by excluding them from the Bar.