

Mr. Justice Williams, in regard to the action of the latter, and the sacrifice of Mr. Justice Williams was definitely intended to be carried into effect."

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It is fortunate for England that it has a strong press, both professional and lay. The agitation begun by the *Law Journal*, spread rapidly throughout the press, and so strong was the response evoked, that the authorities were glad to disclaim any intention of removing Mr. Justice Williams from the winding up business. Lord Herschell also found it necessary to give an explicit denial in the House of Lords to many of the rumors. The *Law Journal* has probably been the means of averting from the English judiciary a grave scandal. Meanwhile, it makes us a little uncomfortable to think of scandal touching the English Bench, when our final appeal is to the Judicial Committee.

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IN the Province of Quebec, a Provincial Bar Association is in process of formation. We congratulate the Bar of our sister Province. At the same time, we may use their action as a peg for a little sermon to ourselves in Ontario. Why have we not a Bar Association for the Province of Ontario? What a useful thing, both to the profession and the public, a strong association would have been! Measures of law reform are being slowly incubated without the assistance, or even the knowledge, of the profession at large. The initiative of change, both in the statute law and in practice, ought to come from the Bar, and if the measures to be brought forward

at this meeting of the Legislature are inadequate, or harmful, we have none to blame but ourselves. The Bar of this Province could be a great power, if its energies were concentrated and directed towards any given object. It would be a worthy direction of such energy to promote law reform.

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THE late David Dudley Field on one occasion did some plain talking before the American Bar Association: "Why can not we lawyers rise up to the height of our profession, and feel ourselves bound to improve the law of the land, and to do everything in our power to make it plainer, cheaper, and easier for the people?"

"The majority of the lawyers appear to care nothing about it. . . . What is the reason of the indifference of lawyers to the reform of the law? The truth must be told. Too many of our calling look upon it, not as a profession, but as a craft. And it is because they so regard it that they do not strive to elevate it. The majority of the Bar of the country have hitherto opposed every great reform. I challenge the student of history to find any important law reform in our times advanced by the great body of lawyers. Every such reform has been carried by the people, with the aid of a minority of lawyers. Take heed in time. You of the majority opposed the abolition of imprisonment for debt. You opposed giving woman her rights. You have opposed any attempt at codification, and it will be so always, until you arrive at a better sense of the dignity and the duty of the profession. Profession, I call it, and not a craft."