

Bracton declares that "God is the author of justice, for justice is in the Creator, and accordingly right and law have the same significance." Bract. B. I., c. 3. Moreover, this same author says: "Let the King then attribute to the law what the law attributes to him, namely, dominion and power, for there is no King where the will and not the law has dominion; and that he ought to be under the law, since he is the vicar of God, appears evidently after the likeness of Jesus Christ, whose place he fills on earth."

The administration of law in England was regarded by that writer as a sacred duty demanding the highest mental and moral qualifications. Thus he says: "Let not one who is unwise and unlearned ascend the judgment seat which is, as it were, the throne of God, lest he convert darkness into light and light into darkness, and lest, with a sword in his untaught hand, as it were, of a madman, he should slay the innocent and set free the guilty, and lest he tumble down from on high, as from the throne of God, in attempting to fly before he has acquired wings." Bract. B. I., c. 2, s. 7. Furthermore, he says: "Jurisprudence is the knowledge of divine and human things, the science of what is just and unjust." *Ib.* c. 4, s. 4.

This association of the law with the Christian religion is manifested not only in the works of the early writers, but in the actual practice of the courts of law from the earliest times. Lord Bacon declared religion to be one of the pillars of the law.

It finds public expression to this day in England in the judicial attendance at public worship for the purpose of invoking the Divine blessing and guidance on the proceedings of the law courts, whether it be at the assizes, or on the general resumption of legal business after the long vacation, a practice which, unfortunately, we in Ontario have not preserved.

The same recognition by the State of the Christian religion is evidenced by statutes against blasphemy, and for the proper observance of the Lord's Day.

Prior to the Norman conquest bishops sat with the sheriff in the County Courts, the bishop's duty being to inform the people