

law faculty, held on Saturday last, as reported in the GAZETTE of the 11th instant.

Four speeches were made. The first by a young man who aspires to become an advocate and who preludes by denouncing the General Council of the Bar, the examination which he seems to apprehend. He, however, "referred to the decided improvement that has been made in the working of the law faculty during the year. It had aroused a continuity of attendance that could not but produce beneficial results." Let him thank for it the regulations of the council, which have not been a stranger to such progress.

The next two speeches were made by serious men—Mr. W. H. Kerr, Q.C., dean of the faculty, and Mr. N. W. Trenholme, Q.C., professor of the law faculty. They spoke of the necessity of strong preparatory and legal studies for Canadian advocates, on account of the high functions to which they may be called as advocates, legislators, judges, etc. "This was a time," said Mr. Trenholme, "that called for educated lawyers; we must have as lawyers men of broad and comprehensive views, men who would execute the laws with honor and dignity."

The dean of the law faculty spoke of the change in the arrangement of lectures; he was happy to see that the attendance was much more regular; he regretted that the public did not seem to consider that the study of law was as important as any other; it is almost impossible to get men to sacrifice their time and labor merely to fulfil a duty; chairs had to be endowed. He then stated that society would sooner or later be convulsed; a contest was coming on that would concern our property and even our liberty; hence the necessity to prepare for the storm by cultivating the study of law. It is impossible to plead more forcibly for good sound classical education and for the study of philosophy, as they develop and strengthen the intellectual faculties enlarge the circle of ideas and attainments, detect error and sophistry, and carry the heart towards all that is grand, good and beautiful.

Sir William closed the meeting. He himself bore witness that, "at this moment the faculty of law is, both in its staff and course of study, better equipped than ever before." He next attacked the council of the Bar, and made a misstatement when he said that the

Council of the Bar had imposed regulations "tending to oblige our faculty of law to conform to *methods* not approved by this university." I repeat it for the tenth time: the Bar regulations impose no *method* whatever of teaching, nor any teaching matter to McGill law faculty, nor to any law faculty whatever. There is no possible excuse for such repeated mistatements, which evidently have but one object in view, namely, to appeal to ignorance and to national and religious passions.

Sir William next repeats his ordinary charges against the Bar preliminary examination, which he denounces, as usual, as infringing on the rights and privileges of Protestants, but in his usual vague and general way. I have nothing to add on that head.

What I wish to draw special attention to is the last sentence of his address. Should the English universities demand of a Protestant board of examiners to admit candidates to the study of all liberal professions be denied, "the case will be one which, in the interests of the Dominion and the Empire and the cause of liberty and progress, must be appealed to our fellow citizens beyond the limits of Quebec."

This is not the language of a serious man, nor of a friend of his country, nor even of a friend of the cause which he pretends to uphold. These threats will not move our population. All nationalities live peaceably together in this province. Englishmen have always been treated by the majority with justice, liberality and even generosity. These ill considered provocations will not much move French-Canadians. Relying on their rights and the justice of their cause they can afford to allow this intemperate language to fall, and Sir William may realize, as the *Mail* did during the last Ontario local elections, that appeals to prejudice and ignorance no longer succeed in this country.

I hold letters from English lawyers, and I have received from educated Englishmen in various social positions, marks of approbation, which show that I have not vainly appealed, at the outset, to the common sense and spirit of fairness so characteristic of Englishmen.

I thank you for your kindness, and now close this, perhaps, too long controversy.

Yours, etc.,

S. PAGNUELO.

Montreal, April 14, 1887.