

turning to real and well-grounded respect. No doubt the conservative part of the profession will always look upon the woman lawyer as unladylike, unwomanly, recreant to her natural position, overturning the laws of God, what not? That is inevitable: but the great body of the profession is beginning—has indeed progressed some distance on the way—to treat her as a desirable and useful part of the profession and the body politic. "The Courts have invariably treated women practising before them with the greatest courtesy and kindness."¹ On inquiry, I find that the Bench can discover no difference in the ability and acumen in man and woman; it is the individual talent and industry which tell, not the sex. While there are exceptions, the rule is that women do not take trial briefs; as in Ontario, they mainly confine themselves to chamber practice. The number of woman lawyers is increasing slowly if at all, and there seems to be no more fear of man losing his lead in law than in the sister profession of medicine—indeed the competition is not so great as in medicine.

If I were to sum up in a sentence the results of the admission of women to the practice of law from my experience and inquiry, I would say that it has done some good, and no harm, while all prophecies of ill results have been falsified; that its effects on the profession and practice of law have been negligible, and that it is now regarded with indifference and as the normal and natural thing by Bench, Bar, and the community at large.

¹ I quote from a letter from Mrs. Mussey, President of the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia, to whose kindness I owe some of the facts in the text. The position of women in the District of Columbia is peculiar in that they are admitted to the Bar of the District, but not to the Bar Association and therefore not to the American Bar Association. A prominent member of the Bar Association somewhat maliciously says that this "will suggest a distinction which still exists in the minds of men lawyers." However, the women have their own apparently prosperous Bar Association in the District of Columbia.