

not cringe before courts or be carried away by popular emotions or a hostile press. The statement made by Thomas Lord Erskine can be repeated by most members of our profession to-day:—

“I will forever at all hazards assert the dignity, independence and integrity of the English Bar without which impartial justice, the most valuable part of the English constitution, can have no existence.”

We do not claim that all members of the Bar are fearless, learned, faithful in the discharge of their duties and governed by the best ethics. We do not contend that all are impartial and of judicial mind or that, as opportunity offers, all wisely and unselfishly endeavour to improve our laws and the administration of justice, for there are some who, looking backward, see only good in the past and refuse to move, while others, closing their ears to the voice of experience, would create all things new on an “*a priori*” basis. But the aim and effort and trend of the profession is toward its ennoblement and its usefulness. Sir Walter Scott, who by the way was a lawyer, made a fair criticism of our profession and it is as applicable now as in his time:—

“In a profession where unbounded trust is necessarily imposed, there is nothing surprising that fools should neglect it in their stupidity and tricksters abuse it in their knavery. But it is more to the honour of those, and I will vouch for many, who unite integrity with skill and attention and walk honourably upright where there are so many pitfalls and stumbling blocks for those of a different character. To much men their fellow-citizens can safely entrust the care of protecting their patrimonial rights, and their country the more sacred charge on her laws and privileges.”

I think I have thus outlined correctly the spirit, the ideals, the learning and the qualities which characterize the Canadian lawyer and how, as an adviser in human affairs, he accompanies his clients into their respective avenues of life.

If I have, it is manifest that these and his opportunities of