

advantages either in the culture or social position of its members, which it owed to its exclusiveness, and hence the increase in its members. The gain in quantity has been purchased at the sacrifice of those special qualities to which, in former times, so much value was attached. Now I can state, emphatically, as a matter of personal knowledge, that such an explanation would be wholly at variance with the truth. Whether we adopt intellectual or social tests, whether we take learning or refinement as our measure of value, the bar never received, during the long period I have known it, more valuable accessions to its ranks, than in the young gentlemen who have joined it at present, and during the last few years. So thoroughly, indeed, am I persuaded of this fact, that, with all the respect which I feel for the rapidly thinning ranks of my seniors, and with all the natural clinging which I have to those who are of my own age, or my immediate juniors, I do not hesitate to state it as my opinion that much of the best blood and brains and culture at the bar will be found amongst the men under ten years' standing. But if all this be true, even those of your readers who hear it gladly, may not, unnaturally, shake their heads when a brilliant future is predicted for the bar. The practice of the Court of Session they will say is falling off; the number of judgeships and sheriffships is being diminished; the office of Lord Advocate is in danger of being shorn of its political importance, and that of Lord Clerk Register is threatened with abolition, or, what is pretty much the same, with being transferred to London. What, then, are all those gifted and accomplished young fellows to do? What a prodigious waste of talent and energy must be going on in the Parliament House, and how many of those men whom you now regard as so promising, if no change for the better should occur in their prospects, must run utterly to seed. It is sadly too true; and the fact, I think, points clearly to the necessity of the bar vindicating for itself a wider field of activity than it has hitherto enjoyed, or than can now possibly be furnished to it by the practice of the law. The bar, meaning thereby the highest branch of the legal profession, must develop in this country, as it has done elsewhere, a political and official, as well as a legal side, and our university teach-

ing must be so expanded and adjusted as to prepare a class of specialists for this new sphere. To explain how this is effected in continental countries would involve an unjustifiable encroachment on your space. All that I can do for the present is to call the attention of your readers to a series of papers in the *Journal of Jurisprudence*, in which this is being done very fully, by my friend and colleague, Professor Mackay; and to the first article in the last number of that periodical, which is devoted to the subject. In urging the adoption of the course which I have here indicated, it will be seen from the information contained in Professor Mackay's articles that the writer, far from proposing a novelty, is only suggesting that this country should do what the rest of the civilized world has done already.

I am, etc., J. LORIMER."

#### INCIDENTS OF ENGLISH BAR PRACTICE.

The practice of the law in England is commonly supposed to be characterized by the most profound respect and decorum on the part of the bar towards the bench, while the members of the latter are presumed to live in an atmosphere too elevated and dignified to be affected by human infirmity or foible. A brace of incidents which we find in a single issue of an English journal (*Liverpool Post*, Aug. 2), are somewhat at variance with such preconceptions. The first is headed "A Scene in Court," and is as follows:

"During the hearing of the Herne Bay Waterworks petition in the Court of Chancery, London, on Wednesday, a scene occurred between Vice-Chancellor Malins and Mr. Glasse, Q.C., the leading counsel of the court. The Vice-Chancellor having stated that the case had better stand over till the November sittings, Mr. Glasse remarked on the inadequacy of the court to deal with the business.—The Vice-Chancellor: That is a very improper remark for you, as the leading counsel of the court, to make.—Mr. Glasse: The public will judge.—The Vice-Chancellor: Your remarks are of an infamous description. I wonder you have the audacity to make them.—Mr. Glasse (who spoke with suppressed excitement): I, standing here, will not descend to tell your lordship what I think of you."