

ments, as in the case of his appointments to the High Court and County Court Benches, he has striven to obtain the best possible men for the posts. This ideal has not always been adhered to in the past, but it is merely stating an obvious fact, that if the high standard of our judiciary, whether in the High Court, County Court, or petty sessions, is to be maintained, the appointments must be made entirely free from any political, or denominational considerations, and that the sole qualification for judicial office must be the fitness of the candidate himself. If high character and competency are considered as the only reasons for preferment, the composition of our judiciary will be beyond criticism."

If all this be a correct view of the matter of judicial appointments in England, as we think it is, it is certain that the same principles are equally applicable in Canada and each of the provinces; and it is to be hoped that the present and all future ministers charged with the responsible duty of advising as to judicial appointments will act upon them.

In the past, men have been appointed to high judicial office in Ontario for no better reason than that they happened to be of a particular stripe of politics, or of some particular religion. It is, of course, desirable that a judge should be a religious man, but in the administration of the law, neither politics nor religion of a particular stripe are necessary qualifications for the Bench, and men who are appointed for political or religious considerations may be apt to think that they are on the Bench in order to give effect to their political or religious convictions, rather than to administer justice free from all bias, whether political or religious. We had recently a so-called religious paper finding fault with a deceased judge, eminent both for his integrity and impartiality, and who did justice, loved mercy, and walked humbly before his God, because, forsooth, he had not been more subservient to the church through whose influence it was said he had been appointed to the Bench.