

ADDRESSES

THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE SCIENCE OF JURISPRUDENCE IN CANADA.

BY SIR JAMES AIKINS, K.C., M.P., PRESIDENT.

The purposes of this Association are professional, they relate only to our profession and its advancement, to the law and its administration and improvement. They are Canadian and apply equally to all races and languages and creeds, with which they do not interfere, nor will they conflict with any existing provincial law societies or organizations—on the contrary, the Canadian Association seeks the co-operation of these. Its design is usefulness.

Faithful and efficient service has been and is a characteristic of our profession; it is due to the client, expected by the people and willingly given by the Bar. The highest title and dignity conferred on a member of the English Bar before 1880 was that of serjeant, who is the "serviens" of Bracton's time—the "serving man" of about the Thirteenth Century. For this purpose of service members of our profession are required to be learned in the law and the principles of Government, to be of moral character and industrious, usually to take an oath of office promising to uphold the constitution of the land, to aid in the administration of its law. Their conduct after being called is always under scrutiny by fellow practitioners who are zealous for the honour of the Bar. For any dereliction in duty they are liable to discipline by the society to which they belong and by the court before which they practise. They are thus certified to the people as those having general knowledge of affairs and learning beyond the ordinary, as capable of giving advice on the written and unwritten law which governs the people and their