

It may, I think, be taken as the general opinion that as a body, our Judges are quite equal to their responsibilities and discharge them with credit and efficiency.

Nothing, it seems to me, is more worthy of remark at the beginning of the Twentieth Century, than the high esteem and veneration in which the Judicial office is still held by the public at large.

The predominant note in the life of the present day is undoubtedly the mercenary one.

The garish idolatry of the golden calf,—the idealization of wealth and material progress, and the exaggerated cult of physical contests and exercises may somewhat obscure the more modest claims of culture and learning and character and probity as elements in the make-up of a nation's greatness.

And, with respect to many human institutions there has been in recent times an appreciable decline in the regard which the public entertains for them.

There is a tendency to believe that public men generally have rather departed from the old standards of virtue and conduct, and implicit faith in purity of motive and rectitude of action can no longer be said to be universal.

But, the Judges are not subjected to the prevalent suspicion, and the Judicial office still maintains its ancient and honourable place in popular regard.

As a consequence, we find that not only are our Courts of Justice trusted and believed in, but, in addition to the ordinary work which tribunals are called upon to discharge, it has become the custom in modern times to resort to the Judicial body for the arbitrament of differences and disputes of infinite variety and magnitude—international, political, polemical, philosophical and municipal—the public evidently

