

Remembering the history of our profession, I thought it wise to consult the Chiefs of Bench and Bar in England; and as Ireland has much the same system and traditions, I at the same time consulted those in that land. Scotland has a law based on the Civil Law as has Quebec, and I asked the opinion of some of the leaders in Scotland. Without a single exception, all who replied were opposed to a written Code of Ethics.

The opinion of the profession in the British Isles is most persuasive, but, of course, it should not, it cannot be considered conclusive upon us, however closely we are affiliated, however much we owe to the Mother Country, however near the practice of the Courts. Circumstances in this Dominion, as in other Dominions, may make a difference advisable if not imperative in system.

As against the practice in the Old Land we may be inclined to consider that in the various States of the American Union—the usages of trade and of society, the “genius of the people” are much more near our own in many of these States than in England; while politically we are intensely British (and have no desire to change our position), in the general conduct of business, and of intercourse, in form and customs we are inclined rather to the American. Most of the Bar Associations of the various States of the Union have their formal Codes of Ethics as has the general Society—the American Bar Association. I am favoured in being an honorary member of several of these Bar Associations, and have enjoyed the privilege of frequent and somewhat close association with their members; and I have found an almost universal approval of the written code. Although in most cases other reasons were alleged for that approval, I am wholly of the opinion that in many instances that view is due in no slight degree to the fact that the United States and the separate States have all a written Constitution. The mind of the American lawyer naturally and instinctively inclines to written formulation of all precepts, all rules, all principles.

The difference in the connotation of the words “Constitutional” and “Unconstitutional” in the American usage and our own will illustrate my meaning. In the United States the