

The increase of the work of our superior Courts may be gathered from the fact that the Government of the Dominion considered it necessary in 1870 to appoint two additional Judges, and that in the Term lately closed there were 119 cases on the docket, and the Court was obliged to sit in two divisions for several weeks to overtake the work. The docket for the Term immediately after my appointment contained only 42 cases.

Some persons may think that I have reported the decisions too fully, and have taken too much pains to ensure the most minute accuracy. I can only say that I have felt deeply impressed with a remark of one of my learned predecessors who says: "There is no species of publication which demands more scrupulous accuracy than those histories of judicial proceedings and decisions to which the name of Reports has been long appropriated." It is comparatively seldom that second editions of Law Reports are published, and there is, therefore, not often an opportunity of correcting an error. A learned writer has said that on the fidelity and accuracy of Law Reporters the evidence of a very great part of the law entirely depends. I have often spent hours over the preparation of a single head note, carefully weighing every word in order that the note, as is necessary, might be as brief as possible and yet exhaustive and perfectly accurate. I may remind non-professional readers that these notes are expected to contain *the law* on the points to which they refer, and law as binding as a Statute.

If the reporting for our superior Courts is to be continued, it is now absolutely necessary that the entire system should be changed. As already intimated, no one man can do the work, and an additional reporter, or reporters, must be appointed, or the work of the reporter considerably lessened. Indeed, during the last two years, I have been compelled to employ one and often two assistants whom I have paid out of my own means. In other countries each Court has its own distinct reporter with a salary very much larger than mine, and in England there are generally two reporters to each Court.

When, and in what manner, then, this volume will be completed will depend very largely upon the provision which may

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