

more essential to liberty than an absolutely free outspoken Bar. Considered as a mental training the profession of the Bar is probably in its kind the most perfect and thorough of all professions."

Even Professor Lecky who was obsessed with the erroneous idea that the practice of advocacy as it is practised by the most eminent of the legal profession is inconsistent with the highest ethical standards admits that, "in the interest of the proper administration of justice it is of the utmost importance that every cause however defective and every criminal however bad should be fully defended and it is therefore indispensable that there should be a class of men entrusted with that duty. It is the business of the Judge and of the jury to decide on the merits of the case but in order that they should discharge this function it is necessary that the arguments on both sides should be laid before them in the strongest form." (*The Map of Life*, by Lecky, 101).

So much for the opinions of laymen, now let me give you the opinions of two very eminent Judges. Mr. Justice Best said in *Morris v. Hunt*, 1 Chit. Rep. 555: "There is nothing which has so great a tendency to secure the due administration of justice, as having the Courts of the country frequented by gentlemen so eminently qualified by their education and principles of honor, as at this time appear to discharge the duties which they are called upon to fulfil." Lord Chancellor Brougham, in *Greenough v. Gaskell*, 1 My. & K. 98, was even more emphatic. He said: "The interests of justice cannot be upholden, the administration of justice cannot go on without the aid of men skilled in jurisprudence, in the practice of the Courts and in those matters affecting rights and obligations which form the subject of all proceedings." (1)

The best sheet anchor any lawyer can possess is an ardent belief in his profession, its usefulness to the state, its respectability, its splendid traditions. If he starts on his career with a mind steeped in the history, traditions and customs of his profession, he is not likely to wander far from the path of rectitude. He will discover that to play the honest lawyer is not a hard part and that there is no other calling in which honesty and integrity pays such high dividends. He will discover, however, that there are certain ethical standards to which he must conform and that as to what these standards are his own moral or ethical instincts are not always a safe guide.

Suggestions for the adoption of a code or canons of ethics have not in the past met with much favor either in England or Canada. There has however been for some time a growing feeling here, stronger in the West perhaps than in the East, that the recognized ethical rules which experience has shown to be necessary for its government and

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(1) See also lecture by Professor Richmond, *Lawyers and the Public*, 18 L.Q.R. 400.