

are lawyers. Perhaps their desire to hear themselves speak, or to practice oratory on the electors, may have something to do with this. I am rather inclined to think, however, that it is not owing to either of these causes, but more to the fact that the leading thinking men of the community belong to the legal profession, and are in demand on account of their competency. The training which lawyers get both professionally and by practice is such as fits them peculiarly for the discussion and solving of difficulties which arise in the political or public field. With matters of this nature, I am not so much concerned. As regards the honour of the Profession, it will be more useful to deal with the matter upon a much higher basis than this, and, therefore, the subject comes peculiarly within the province of a widely extended body like the Canadian Bar Association.

The honour of the Profession depends largely upon the reputation and conduct of its individual members. Lawyers as a body have not always achieved the highest repute in the opinion of many of their fellow-citizens,—too often unjustly due to the acts of a few individuals, who unfortunately happen to be members of the Profession.

The first great object to be kept in view is a high standard of morality. A man who lives an immoral or improper life as regards his ordinary business dealings, or his character, does much to impair the general reputation of his class. If a man is judged by the company he keeps, the company is equally judged by the conduct of some of the men who compose it. A man who is seldom sober, who fails to meet his moral and financial obligations, and who disregards the calls of a good life, should not be a lawyer. It will be said that as regards this phase of the matter, the Profession has no concern. I think differently. I see no reason why the Profession of law should not adopt some well-defined rule, as one finds in the profession of the ministry. A man's personal conduct has everything to do with his professional duties. His clients are entitled to the best that his mind can give them, and if that mind is debased or clouded by his own acts, he is not in a position to fulfil the conditions