

of the bar, but also commands the sympathy and good wishes of the bench. Of this we have already had ample proofs, for, last year, when, on the eve of separating, the judges of Montreal considered it a duty, and did us the honor, to grace our last meeting with their presence, Sir Alexandre Lacoste, Chief Justice of the highest court in the province of Quebec, voicing the sentiments of all, in an address admirable for its lofty ideas and its eloquence, offered us the felicitations, and gave us a masterly description of the grandeur and nobleness of our enterprise. This sympathy from the bench is still fresh and active.

This need of large associations among the members of the same profession and of the classes whose career is devoted to the acquisition of knowledge, seems in our day to be universally admitted. The human mind is too limited and the field of study too vast to permit any single individual, without the aid of associates in the same science, to master it in its entirety.

This remark is to be applied more especially to the callings in which science makes new conquests every day, determines and settles principles, where our acquired experience is limited, and our notions crude and imperfect. Who can fully appreciate the results of this collaboration on an extensive basis as a means of penetrating further into the arena of nature and science? And to give you an actual instance of the value and importance attached to such collaboration, it suffices to mention the fact that we have on our shores at the present moment a distinguished body of men representing two of the greatest scientific associations of England. I allude to the British Medical Association and the British Association for the Advancement of Science, which have not feared to cross the ocean and visit Canada to pursue their labors among us. They come here to meet and mingle with our men of art and science, and to make those interchanges of thought which are invaluable, and of which the learned men of the world alone can enjoy the luxury and the glory. (Applause.)

The science of law is undoubtedly positive in its nature. Law is a work of the will, pure and simple, whose interpretation is kept within narrow limits. But to have this interpretation wisely effected is it not necessary that the intellect should be well supplied by the study of the fundamental principles of ethics and fortified by the close reading of the works of our great legists and juriconsults? If an association like ours cannot follow these studies in common, at least we can by our moral influence and action induce the bars of the different provinces to exact higher qualifications at the hands of those who seek to become members thereof. And in this way our association becomes useful in contributing to raise the standard of our profession.

In our day the bar deserves more than ever the attention and solicitude of the people. It has become a powerful factor in the accomplishment of the destinies of nations. Modern civilization has substituted new ideas for notions of the past. Among the civilized nations of the present century the tendency is to settle differences, not by force of arms, but by arbitration. The world seems at last to understand that if difficulties between individuals can be settled without recourse to physical force, but by the free and conscientious exercise of the judgment of a fellow man, the differences between nations should also be settled by tribunals, that they, themselves, may select. We may, perhaps witness revolutions among civilized nations, but our hope is great that the twentieth century will see no more of these disastrous wars, which have caused so much blood to flow during the course of this century. And to-day these words of the poet are truer than ever: "*Cedant arma togae*"

In these arbitrations the rights of nations will be upheld and defended, not by soldiers and bayonets, but by the champions of thought and the sturdy advocates of justice. What is now actually happening in your city of Halifax is sufficient indication of the truth of my contention. A hundred years ago the Behring Sea difficulty would have brought about a conflict between two of the greatest nations in the world. In our day the same two nations have handed