

But if it is true, as here contended, that the changed conditions of the times has altered the relative position of both Bench and Bar, how much more necessary is it for those who are professionally concerned, and for those outside of the profession who regard its dignity and integrity, and especially the dignity and integrity of the Bench as most important for the well-being of the country, to do everything that can be done to uphold them, and to oppose everything that may tend to degrade them.

As regards the former the raising of the salaries of the judges was a step in the right direction, but too small to be of any use in the premises. It is, however, in the nature of the appointments made that the most effective work can be done. Political service need not be overlooked, but other qualifications are more essential, and in no respect can a government so easily secure the good-will of the reflective portion of the community as by wise selection of men for offices of state, and especially for positions on the Bench. Needless to say that when appointed the judges have the reputation of the Bench in their own hands. None are so much interested in upholding it, and none can do so much to accomplish that object. No man should accept the office of a judge in any of our Courts who does not feel himself competent to discharge its duties, and who does not feel the great responsibilities which attach to it.

A step in the direction of lowering the dignity, and perilling the reputation of the Bench, was taken when men in high position upon it left their seats to re-engage in political life, and, of course, in political strife. It is much to be regretted that men of the eminence of Sir Oliver Mowat and Sir John Thompson should have set such an example, the blame for which reflects not only upon themselves, but also upon the political leaders in whose interest they acted. No party exigency should have influenced any statesman to take such a course—least of all those by whom it was taken. It is earnestly to be hoped that there will be no repetition of this abuse, for abuse it certainly is. No judges will be held in respect if they are supposed, while having one eye upon the pleadings before them, to have the other upon affairs of party or politics, watching for a favourable opportunity of leaving the Bench for the hustings, or the courts of law for the court of Parliament. It has long been the boast of our system of juris-