

as many weeks, only to result in a disagreement of the jury or in endless appeals. An instance is given in which even an American judge, wearied with the prolixity of a counsel, said to him, when he ventured to express a fear that he was taking up too much time, "Oh, never mind time, but for goodness' sake do not trench upon eternity."

In the article referred to the following remarks are worth quoting: "Counsel, it is sometimes said, are paid to talk. That is obviously true in a certain sense. But it must not be taken literally. If it be, then the heaviest briefs would, on the commercial basis, go to the most loquacious. Far more important, as litigants quickly learn, is the *quality* of a forensic speech than its *length*. This is an elementary lesson which many young counsel never thoroughly learn. As a biographer of Chief Justice North remarked, some talk not so much for the cause they represent as for their own sakes. In other words, they seek the doubtful credit of being notable for enduring eloquence. Hence creeps in the fault of repetition, so common and so irritating. A very humorous illustration of this failing is related by the late Serjeant Robinson. A certain counsel was arguing before four judges, and constantly repeated himself. At length one of the judges testily interposed, 'You have dealt fully with that matter, Mr. —, four times already.' 'No, my Lord, I think only three; it is a point very difficult to understand, and as there are four of your Lordships, I think I ought, in justice to my client, to dwell upon it once again.' It was under similar annoying circumstances that Mr. Justice Channell, some time ago, interrupted a loquacious counsel with the remark: 'Counsel always seem to think that a judge cannot understand anything unless it is repeated at least ten times. I assure you that I understand it, say, the second or third repetition.' "

This reminds me of a story told of the late Bishop Strachan of Toronto. A deputation from a certain congregation waited upon him to complain of their minister who, they said, had preached the same sermon on three successive Sundays. "And