

*THE COURTS OF ONTARIO.*

We must often look abroad to understand ourselves, and "see ourselves as others see us"—at least to know the value, comparatively, of our own institutions and the faults or benefits of administration. The observations we quote below are made by one very competent to form an opinion on the subject, and especially as a large sum of money was devoted by a patriotic American to obtaining information as to the best modes of administering justice in his country and the most desirable forums for that purpose, and this Mr. Harley, a lawyer of eminence, was selected to make enquiries on the subject, and report thereon. We do not perhaps appreciate how much we in the English-speaking provinces of the Dominion have to be thankful for in connection with this most important subject. A perusal of the whole paper, which we regret not having space for in full, would make this fact abundantly apparent.

In this excellent paper read by Mr. Herbert Harley at the annual meeting of the Illinois State Bar Association held last month at Springfield, Ill., he spoke of the administration of justice in the Courts of Ontario. The following extract will be read with interest by members of the Ontario Bar, and gives a good idea of the adaptability and flexibility of the system adopted in the English-speaking Provinces of the Dominion, for speaking generally the procedure is much the same in all of them when administered by a judge who is familiar with its scope and has the intelligence and the nerve to use the power given him. We quote as follows:—

"But Ontario is not remote from Illinois, either geographically or socially. When England acquired Canada Ontario was unsettled. Its immigrants were English, Scotch and Irish, and they planted there the English common law while Quebec retained the civil law of its French habitants. There has been more recently in Ontario a sprinkling of German, Scandinavian and Italian immigrants, so that to-day the people are racially identical with those of the typical northern state of the Amer-