

Justinian Legislation, to which some reference is made in almost every page of the works consulted by the Bar of Lower Canada, in their daily professional studies and pursuits; and, by tracing, however rapidly, to their sources, the laws contained in the Code, the Pandects and the Institutes, and dwelling upon the singular and providential event of their preservation down to our own times, it has been my aim far more to excite, than to gratify, your curiosity in relation to these colossal and enduring monuments of Roman intellect and greatness.

If the ancients are constantly held up to us as the models we are to imitate in the various departments of literature and philosophy, they are no less deserving of our unwearied study in the important department of their laws. It is in the study of the Civil Law alone that the student can hope to lay the foundations of a sound knowledge of Jurisprudence.

Our early impressions, derived from the History of Rome, are those of admiration for the heroism, the independence, the genius, the literature, the laws and the power of its people. These impressions become deeper as we afterwards investigate, more philosophically, their claims to this admiration, and we have the highest authority for saying, that this sentiment of reverence we feel for Roman institutions, is one to which those institutions are, with few exceptions, fully entitled.

One of the legal luminaries of modern times, the Great Chancellor D'AGUESSEAU, thus beautifully expresses himself in one of his famous orations on the Science of the Magistrate, when speaking of Roman Jurisprudence: "Tout y respire encore," says this eminent jurist and orator, "cette hauteur de sagesse, cette profondeur de bon sens, et pour tout dire, en un mot, cet esprit de législation, qui a été le caractère propre et singulier des maîtres du monde,