

LAW SCHOOL—INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

sion, probably, required so much varied knowledge as that of the law. They were liable every one to have submitted to them most diverse questions. One day it might be a surgical case, another that of a mill, and another one of complicated accounts; indeed the variety was so great that it was difficult to say where one's knowledge ought to end. Mr. Cameron proceeded to show how that lack of knowledge may have caused a strong point in a case to be overlooked; or led to a point being argued that was better left alone; and instanced cases where men had evinced ignorance in speaking of a vegetable poison as a mineral one, and on points of anatomy. He spoke of suits which had been lost through ignorance of mechanics; of the different effect of water on an over-shot and under-shot wheel. He believed that no man would go far astray if he devoted six months to a course of lectures on anatomy, and a certain period to book-keeping. The next point insisted on was that a practitioner at the Bar should never be driven from a course he had decided on, simply because his client did not approve of it, nor be too anxious to make well better, and instanced the cases of *Staunton v. Weller*, and that of a forged deed. In the former an action was entered for recovery of damages from a stage coach proprietor. A non-suit had been moved for when the defendant desired the driver should be put into the witness box. He was called and proved that in the case of the accident he acted on the judgment of a passenger at his side rather than his own, whereupon the judge held him responsible for the accident and a verdict was returned for plaintiff. A two-fold lesson was inculcated by this illustration. Mr. Cameron next commended the practice of patience and perseverance and showed the value of them by instancing the case of some deeds which had been lost in Canada in the war time of 1812, and which after years and years of search all over the world had been discovered in the possession of a high official who had supposed them to be burnt. He next proceeded to notice the practice of Criminal Law; and said that that was attended with far more difficulties than was generally supposed. It was thought that anyone could take up a defence in a Criminal Case. This was a great mistake. It was a very serious responsibility that might involve the character or the life of the client. He would advise them for one thing never to allow a client to tell them he was guilty, for they would thereby encumber themselves with a weight hard to bear. It was their duty always to conduct the case of a client as if they were simply his mouthpiece, but it was

unwise to begin with a knowledge that might prove embarrassing. In the whole course of his professional career he had never had to defend more than one who had told him he was guilty, and that one was acquitted. He then mentioned the case of an artilleryman who shot his sweetheart, and detailed a remarkable chain of circumstantial evidence in the prisoner's favor which resulted in his acquittal. There were other things they would also have to remember. It was often said Mr. A. B. or Mr. C. D. had the ear of the Court. If they examined they would find there was a reason for that. Some men made it a practice not to state a case fairly and this often prejudiced the court against them. There was no favor conceded to any particular lawyer, but the fact was rather that A. B. or C. D. was perfectly reliable; and they themselves would find that there was nothing more proper or profitable than to place a case fairly and honestly before the court. Their profession was a liberal one in every way and an honorable one; it bore more weight of responsibility than any other. They were entrusted with secrets which, if known, would be most disastrous. They were treated with the most implicit confidence; and as long as that was the case they could not but hope that they would urge on every one coming into it, to maintain that honour which had been the glory of the land from which they had sprung, and which should be the glory of this land also. He hoped that the high standard that had been maintained in this country at the Bar and on the Bench would still be kept up; and they only claimed that, with a more extensive field, they would have in the rising men, not only those who would maintain the glory of the past, but would add a lustre to it. They had every educational advantage, and he impressed on them the necessity of their availing themselves of it. In his remarks he had kept himself from scientific questions because these would be brought under notice in the course of lectures then begun. He concluded by speaking in commendatory terms of the gentlemen who were joined with him in conducting the affairs of the Society and the education of the students.

Mr. Cameron concluded a long, practical, useful and eloquent discourse, extending over an hour and a half, amid the most enthusiastic applause. The attendance of both students and practitioners was very large, the lecture-hall and passages being crowded.