

ence." Fortunately or unfortunately, I will not say which, I am not connected in any way with any powerful Incorporation, nor have I influence; but I am a British subject, and a freeholder of this fair Province. I am further one of the people, and I appeal to you, the people of Ontario, for the small measure of justice that I have in vain asked the Legislature to give me. This is written in view of the coming elections, and my object in writing is that you carefully consider my case, and if, after due consideration, you think I am only asking what is fair and what is reasonable, that you will endeavour to convince your representatives in the next Parliament that what I ask is only fair and right, and should be granted. If you succeed in convincing them of the justice of my application, and if they agree to aid in the proposed legislation, see that they do it. What I propose is this: To ask all persons in the Province who think that I have a right to obtain the boon I crave, to join with me in petitioning the Legislature for that end. My notion is, that if the Bill does not go through this session, that I will, during the summer of 1890, prepare forms of petitions, and distribute them throughout the Province. I would commence this year by getting up a petition from Toronto and the vicinity, where I am well known, signed by perhaps 5,000 voters. If the Legislature did not think that petition sufficient, why then year by year I would get up other and larger petitions. In short, for the next session of Parliament I would lay before the Legislature in support of my Bill a petition signed by say 5,000 of the voters of Toronto and vicinity; then if that is not enough, I would take a few constituencies year by year, rolling up the petition as the years went on, and by and by we might have a petition signed by say 100,000 voters, which I think might even convince the members of the Law Society who are high in power in the Legislature, that even a poor devil like myself, one of the common people, has some rights deserving of consideration and respect.

Poverty is no crime, but it is mighty inconvenient. In my case it prevented me from serving five years in a Canadian Lawyer's Office for nothing. If I had been well fixed, and had had plenty of money, why I could have afforded to have taken a five years' turn in a one horse lawyer's office, and at the end of that term, upon passing the final examination, I would have been admitted as a matter of course as a solicitor to practise before a Supreme Court's Judicature, and my application to the Legislature would have been rendered unnecessary, but I was not well off, and I could not serve a Canadian Lawyer or any other man for nothing. The Law Society requires that a service of five years be a *sine qua non* to being allowed to practise as a solicitor before the Supreme Court of Judicature. I do not deny that this, in the majority of cases, is a salutary rule, but I submit that in some cases, such as my own, this rule should be relaxed. And as you now know, the Legislature has in many cases abrogated this rule where it was considered that the insistence upon it would produce hardship and injustice. Then, as my case is such a one, I take it that you will agree with me that the Legislature might well, by an act of grace, grant to me the same privileges that they have granted to so many others.

In conclusion, I would say my cause is safe in your hands if you will lay to heart the words of One who was more powerful than Caesar—more eloquent than Cicero, viz.:—"Do unto others as you would have others do unto you."

GEORGE MACGREGOR GARDNER.