

be to introduce two classes: 1. The university man who, having taken his degree in law, would pass in three years. He could not be excluded by the bar, except for character; but again: the university would be obliged to give the amount of instruction fixed by law as the *minimum*. 2. The student who had gone through a regular and complete course in any incorporated college or seminary. He would pass with four years clerkship, on two examinations, as at present, with this difference, that he would be under the necessity of bringing his certificates from the incorporated college or seminary before being admitted to study. The expression used in section 26, "a liberal education" would therefore come to mean the education of our incorporated colleges or seminaries, that is, of the public schools of superior education.

This amendment would not, perhaps, give all the guarantee desirable; but it would be at all events a step in the right direction, and would prepare the way for that separation of the attorney and advocate practice, the necessity of which is becoming more and more felt daily.

R.

LAW REFORM SOCIETY.

An effort is being made with the concurrence of some of the first practitioners to found a society having for its object the suggestion of needed reforms in the law.

Such a society is greatly needed. That there should be a body which will discuss projected legislation "*avec connaissance de cause*" cannot be denied. In England such a society exists, and its influence is extensive and beneficial. In Upper Canada, we believe, such a society is organised and works well.

Merchants have their Board of Trade, where questions of moment affecting the commerce of the country are discussed, and reforms suggested. Why should not the same interest be shewn amongst lawyers? Bacon tells us that "every man owes a debt to his profession."—How many of us are paying the debt which we owe to the noble profession of the law?

Can we effect any good by withholding our active sympathy and practical co-operation with sincere efforts to elevate the profession? Many of our old lawyers shrug their shoulders and scout the idea of success to any effort of this kind. At the same time these gentlemen are loud in their praise of the *olden times* when there were giants in the profession. We question if any giants in the profession were ever made by vain regrets for a former state of things. We must do the best with the present material, which we believe to be as good as any which formerly existed. Energy and perseverance will rescue us from the slough of despond into which we have apparently fallen.

A Reform Society will be the initiatory step. By bringing the members of the bar into closer relations, the Society would gradually evolve an *Esprit de Corps*, which at present seems to be in a quiescent state.

In the discussion of new *projets* of law, due caution being observed in the publication of the result of the deliberations thereon, the society might lead public opinion. Its decisions, if promulgated after careful discussion, would have great weight with those outside of the profession.

The younger members of the society would have the advantage of listening to the discussion of grave questions, and they would be enabled to benefit by the experience and learning of their more illustrious *confreres*. A spirit of emulation would thus be encouraged, and the profession would be elevated.

Lawyers have no place at present where existing errors or abuses may be criticised. Such a society will afford every member an opportunity to discuss any of these if they exist. At present it is frequently asserted that the Montreal Bar has no influence. If this is true the blame rests with every one who contents himself with repeating the assertion without a single personal effort to remove the stigma.

This can only be done by a united effort, "*l'union fait la force*." A Law Reform Society cannot be carried on by any individual member of the Bar alone.—There must be a combined effort. If the