

I find it has been customary for our Presidents to review the history of the Ontario Bar Association from its inception. My predecessors in this office have averred that the Ontario Bar Association was *well born* and its record so good that its grandfather, the Law Society of Upper Canada, no longer doubts its legitimacy. The proofs of these allegations are to be found scattered through the addresses of past Presidents, and in the election, as Honourary Presidents of the Ontario Bar Association, of Benchers of the Law Society. The courtesies extended to us last year and so kindly repeated this year by the Benchers are a sufficient refutation of the allegation that the junior organization is not *persona grata* to the senior. How keenly we all regret that he whose genial presence made the Benchers' luncheon of last year such a successful function is with us no more. The Law Society and the Ontario Bar Association suffered a deplorable loss when the late Sir Æmilius Irving, and our late Honourary President, James Bicknell, K.C., were called home, and we feel assured that his successor, Sir George Gibbons, K.C., whom we are glad to greet as Honourary President, recalling our departed colleague, longs with all of us "for the touch of a vanished hand and the sound of a voice that is still."

This is the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Association, and I believe that we start the year 1915 with the largest membership in our history. We believe that the objects of the Association are such as entitle it to the good-will of the whole community and the active interest and support of every member of the profession. These will bear quoting again, and are to be found in Article 2 of our Constitution, stated in these terms:—

"The objects of the Association are to facilitate the administration of justice, to promote reform in the law and procedure, to assist in upholding the honour and dignity of the profession of the law, to bring about united action, to conserve its interest, to encourage interchange of ideas and closer intercourse among members of the profession in Ontario, and to maintain friendly relations with the profession in other jurisdictions."