

to a student who was also a graduate in law, for a long time was three years, which term was usually co-extensive with the curriculum of the law faculties. Then the term was extended to four years. This, we are disposed to think, was a change beneficial in its effects. But during the last session of the Quebec Legislature, it appears that the term has been shortened once more to three years. When it is considered that the student of to-day has a much greater field to traverse than his predecessor of half a century ago, it is hard to believe, in the majority of cases, that he can, in so brief a period, come adequately prepared to the portal which admits him to practice. The experience of many advocates of distinction might be cited, all pointing to the conclusion that young men usually come to the bar too soon. The impatience of youth is natural enough, but the result of yielding to it is beneficial neither to them nor to their clients. At present, with four years' preparation, only fifty per cent. of the candidates pass the examinations. Does this state of things justify a reduction of the term of study?

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One of the facts which strongly arrest popular attention is the hardship of a bill of costs added to a petty debt of a few dollars which the debtor, through sickness or otherwise, is unable to pay. At one time we were disposed to think it would be better to deny the right of action for any sum under five or ten dollars. This would stop credit orders, and tend to establish the habit among the poor of buying only for cash. It is obvious, however, that such a rule would produce much embarrassment in its application, and that numerous exceptions would have to be made in regard to unpaid balances of larger debts, interest on loans, constituted rents, and the like. It is doubtful, moreover, whether it might not, on the other hand, encourage the giving of credit to an amount sufficient to enable the creditor to bring an action. In some cases, too, it would prevent a person temporarily