

tion once more. Now there are three great characteristics of a new country, such as Canada—to take the nearest example. It is full of new enterprises. It is in great need of capital. There is less specialization in it; the professions are businesses, are not marked off so clearly from one another. Thus in British Columbia, before the war, a solicitor was generally a great many things besides a mere lawyer. He was usually an estate agent, who helped in the development of land and minerals; a financial agent, who brought the farmer in touch with the banker and the investor; and, in a small way, a stockbroker as well. Moreover, he not infrequently abandoned his own practice to enter business or run a mine. Something of the kind, *mutatis mutandis* of course, we expect to happen in England. The solicitor of the future will tend to be less of a legal adviser and a conveyancer, more of an estate agent and a man of business than he has been in the past. Some of us, who love the old ways of the *ancien régime*, will regret the change. But changes cannot be prevented by those of us who would prefer the rôle of a *laudator temporis acti*.—*Solicitors' Journal*.

PEKING'S ANCIENT LIBRARY.

The library of the "School of the Sons of the Empire," an ancient Chinese university, which, it is claimed, was in existence a thousand years before the Christian era, comprises 182 tablets of stone, whereon are carved all of the "Thirteen Classics," the essence of Chinese culture.

This stone library is not, however, of the same age as the "School of the Sons of the Empire." It probably dates from a late period of the Mongol or an early period of the Ming dynasty. In the north-east of Peking stand the buildings of the old university, long since abandoned as a place of instruction or inspiration in letters.

In the Imperial lecture hall of this "School of the Sons of the Empire" (Kuo Tze-Chien) the Emperor would go, once a year, to hear a discourse on the responsibilities and duties of his office, and to receive reproof and exhortation from the heads of the institution. This practice was retained down to the time of Chien Lung, the great Emperor of the Manchus, in the eighteenth century, a patron of the arts and literature. The stone library in Peking is only a copy of that in Shianfu, in Shensi, which was the capital of the empire.

The reason for carving the classics on stone is not clear. It