

### THE BAR OF QUEBEC.

The following petition has been presented to the Legislature by the General Council of the Bar of the Province of Quebec :—

To the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Quebec :

The humble petition of the General Council of the Bar of the Province of Quebec respectfully represents :

That at a meeting of the General Council of the Bar of the Province of Quebec, held at Quebec, at the Court House, on the 30th January last, at which all the members of the said council were present, namely : Rouer Roy, Esq., Q.C., Bâtonnier-Général, and Hon. Rodolphe Laflamme, both of Montreal ; Hon. François Langelier and George Lampson, Esq. of the city of Quebec ; Hon. A. Turcotte and J. L. Hould, Esq., Q. C., of Three Rivers ; William T. White, Esq., Q.C., and L. E. Panneton, Esq., Q. C., of Sherbrooke ; Eug. Crepeau, Esq., Q.C., of Arthabaska ; J. P. Noyes, Esq., of Bedford, and S. Pagnuelo, Esq., Q.C., Secretary-General and member of the said council ;

It was unanimously resolved to represent, by petition, to Your Honorable House that the General Council is opposed :

1. To Bill No. 47 to admit to the liberal professions, without examination, holders of diplomas of Bachelor of Arts ;

2. To the Bill which tends to remove from the Bar the right of determining what courses of law lectures have to be followed by students, in order to give Bachelors-at-Law the privilege of being exempted from one year's study ;

3. To the Bill for erecting the Bar of the District of Ottawa into a section ;

4. To the private bills, now before the Legislature, for admitting the petitioners to the profession, without passing the preliminary examination for admission to study.

The following, amongst others, are the reasons which have led the General Council to oppose these various measures ;

I. As regards Bill No. 47, the experience of Bar examinations has shown that the University degrees granted in this Province are not always a proof of the qualification of the

graduates, especially if one may judge by the degrees granted for legal studies. In the second place, McGill University, as was proved before a committee of the House in 1886, gives the degree of Bachelor of Arts to all students who complete the course in the Faculty of Arts, while the degree of Bachelor of Arts is granted only to a very small number of students in the colleges affiliated to Laval University, and there are classical colleges in this Province which have not the right of granting University degrees. In order to do justice to all the classical colleges equally, it would be necessary to admit, without examination, all students who have followed a complete course of study in the classical colleges of the Province. It has been found, by the experience acquired at Bar examinations, that the classical studies in a great many colleges are not of a sufficiently high degree to allow of their certificates being accepted without further examination ; that several sciences, which are considered important, are greatly neglected in most of the colleges ; that the programme and method of examination adopted by the Bar have had the effect of compelling the classical colleges to be more careful with their course of studies and of compelling the students to follow it more attentively and assiduously.

We think we are in a position to state that these examinations have already had the effect of raising the level of the classical studies, and are of opinion that to adopt the measure proposed by Bill No. 47 would be a retrograde movement.

II. Under the law of 1866, graduates in law of Universities were granted the privilege of being exempted from one year of study. This privilege is based on the presumption that the graduates have, *bona fide*, followed the course of law lectures for three years. Now, it is well known that degrees in law, until very lately, were granted to students who had followed the lectures *pro forma* only, and that Faculties of Law also gave lectures *pro forma* only. The same Act of 1866 gave the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, the privilege of prescribing the course of law lectures which the Universities were to be obliged to give, in order that their diplomas should confer the above privilege.