

LAW SCHOOL—INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

to take his position in that court if necessary ; and if heretofore their practice had been confined to local questions it must hereafter be extended to a much larger range ; and they must acquire a knowledge of the law in other Provinces. Their reading would have to be much more extensive, reaching even to the law of the United States, which was constituted on a similar Federal basis to that of Canada, and, therefore, it would be that the student here who desired to occupy a position of high honour would have to follow a course different from heretofore. Every man who enters the law must believe that that particular profession is the one for which he is most adapted ; and many a man gets credit for more ability than he is entitled to, but he must know that success has been due to advantageous circumstances. In the course of his experience he has found that there was much that could not be learnt in books ; and he thought the altered relations between masters and clerks was in this respect a great loss to students, and for this and other reasons was to be deprecated. In his early days the payment of a premium was made to the masters instead of the clerks receiving salaries ; and it was a duty incumbent on the masters to give clerks the advantages of their experience. This had been done in days gone by ; and he believed that many gentlemen now in practice had a pleasant recollection of the Saturday afternoons that he had devoted to imparting to his pupils such knowledge as he thought would be of service to them. The change to which he referred had arisen from the altered position of clerk and master : and he hoped that the Law Society would occupy that position which the masters originally occupied in the matter of education. There were three things they must ever keep before them : they were—System, Perseverance, and Self-denial ; and they might be certain that if they kept those before them they might be sure they would not fail when they entered on their professional career. Every man engaged in the profession who took those three words for his motto, would not fail to occupy a high position. The honorable gentleman then drew attention to the difference between Attorneys and Barristers in the old country, and said that opinions were varied as to the advantages of the two systems, one party having a preference to the English system, and another preferring that which prevailed here ; and he pointed out the advantages of the latter in that it enabled one who was thoroughly conversant with a case, to carry it through from beginning to end. A diffi-

culty that was in the way of students was the enormous number of books that were supposed to be necessary for them to read. Some said they must read Blackstone, others said Blackstone was a by-gone work. But when they came to look at the books necessary to read they would find they were very few. They might be divided into four divisions—Treatises, Commentaries, Reports and Digests. When they looked at them all, and considered them, they would see that it was not the number of books they read, but how they read them. In his opinion it was only a few books that a student required. If they would take a small number of books, and read them again and again, they would do themselves a thousand times more good than the discursive reading of a thousand books. They should take Blackstone, Story and Kent. They should take these and diligently read them, and if they read them thoroughly, he would tell them that they were laying the best foundation for their future. He also advised every young man going into an office always to have a pencil in his hand for the purpose of noting down any cases that he might meet with. This was advantageous in enabling him to put his hand on any cases to which he might wish to refer ; but in ordinary practice he deprecated the use of notes. In his own practice he never used notes, and he had found that it was advantageous to trust entirely to his memory. But the commonplace book was valuable for the purpose stated. In going into a court they should make themselves familiar with every point in a suit. He warned them to beware of what was called sharp practice, for it was a ruinous one. The profession was a liberal one, and this should be always borne in mind ; and sharp practice was not only injurious to clients but to brother members of the profession. He called attention to the advantages they enjoyed to those of a by-gone day. All technicalities were now removed ; and he referred to the differences in matters of practice in this respect and what it had been in days gone by. The Law was divided into two parts—Principles and Procedure. Now, whether intending to become Barristers or Attorneys, they were, most of them, prosecuting the same object. He had told them how they might gain knowledge, and had pointed out the advantages attending the use of a commonplace book ; now he would add—never take any instructions or retainer from a client without putting it in writing. With regard to the conduct of cases, he laid it down that tact was of as much value as talent. He held that indeed tact was talent. No profes-