

In the eight years of its existence this Association has done enough to justify its organization, but let no one think that nothing remains to be done. Perfection in law and in procedure of the Courts is unattainable in a community such as ours.

"New occasions teach new duties.
Time makes ancient good uncouth:
They must upward still, and onward.
Who would keep abreast of Truth."

In addition to our Reception Committee, whose duties began at 10 this morning and will end at 6 p.m. to-morrow, we have had Standing Committees at work throughout the year on Law Reform, Legislation, Legal Ethics, and Legal History. The reports of these Committees have been printed for distribution, and are now available.

The work of the year has been rendered very agreeable because of the earnest and able men who have served on these committees. I regard myself as most fortunate in having had such support during my term as President. I desire to thank you for the honour conferred upon me a year ago in electing me President of the Association, and to wish you, one and all, a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Whatever may happen to us individually, I am sure it will be counted a happy and prosperous year if, in the Providence of God, we shall live to see right and justice triumph in the mighty conflict in which we are engaged.

Gentlemen, in conclusion, I commend to the consideration of all of us, in this our time of trouble, those noble sentiments uttered by that great Imperialist, Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield, in a notable address at Manchester forty-two years ago, as true now as then:—

"I express here my confident conviction that there never was a moment in our history when the power of England was so great and her resources so vast and inexhaustible.

"And yet, gentlemen, it is not merely our fleets and armies, our powerful artillery, our accumulated capital, and our unlimited credit on which I so much depend, as upon that unbroken spirit of her people, which I believe was never prouder of the imperial country to which they belong. Gentlemen, it is to that spirit that I, above all things, trust."