

empire, they have begun an existence that promises to be prosperous; nor shall I refer to the islands of Polynesia or the wilds of Africa, but I must speak of a province of this Dominion, of a part of the inhabitants of this very city, of a body of gentlemen belonging to what is termed by courtesy one of the "learned" professions, who deliberately and as a body have declared their ignorance of the value of a university training in arts and of the B. A. degree, which crowns its termination; not the B. A. degree of this university alone, observe, nor that of Lennoxville, but those of *all* universities, whatever be their province or country, in the new world or the old, however ancient or however famous they may be. All alike are rejected as unworthy to give sufficient preparation for the bar of the Province of Quebec. I am perfectly aware that there are many able men and men of learning who belong to the profession, and I am also equally aware that they cannot but feel shame at the action of the body to which they belong, a body whose title to be called a learned profession in other countries, depends upon the fact that so many, if not all, the members of it have been and are compelled to take a university degree before admission to it. It may be asked how is it possible to account for the fact that while in all the rest of the civilized world a university training is so highly esteemed, in this province so little is thought of it. I shall not attempt to account for it. It is no more my duty to account for this than to explain why a man, in addressing a letter to me, puts two f's in professor. He may insist on his legal right to put in two f's if he chooses. At any rate the fact is there. It may give some comfort to you, gentlemen, to know that the degrees which you receive to-day are appreciated elsewhere than in the Province of Quebec. If you go to Ontario, your diploma will admit you to study for the bar without further examination; so will it for the bar of England, and not less for the bar of France. In your own native province only will it be ignored. I hope, however, that this will not last long. The light of knowledge has often been compared to that of the sun. I fear that in the present case the comparison to that of the electric light would be more appropriate; through it, as you must have noticed, there often shoot long beams of darkness, forming a violent contrast to the brilliancy