

men of business: whether the "students" are descended from a butcher, a blacksmith, a merchant, or a lawyer, is indifferent; whether even they were originally shoe-blacks, or stable-boys; provided they do not carry the manners and habits of the shoe-black, or the stable, the anvil, or the slaughter-house, along with them, and that they have an adequate degree of education to fit them for the noviciate they are undergoing. This last, however, is essential, and it is, I believe, a just complaint that the gentlemen of the profession in Canada do not pay sufficient regard to this in the clerks or students at law they take. That there is a radical defect in this respect is true, and it is not inaptly illustrated by one of my correspondents (A FRIEND TO A DISGUSTED QUILL-DRIVER*) who states that "in most places law-students are more respectable than shop-keeper's clerks, but in this place it is the reverse, as, for instance, there is a rule made by the managers of the Montreal assembly that no law-students shall be admitted, whilst shop-keeper's clerks may." This gentleman very candidly allows, that in addition to the impediments before mentioned to the furnishing of law-reports for the Scribbler, there is likewise a great lack of ability, and which is less the fault of the patrons than that of the students themselves, to whom he very judiciously hints, that "reading novels and plays will teach them very little law, and that walking the streets, insulting ladies, drinking in taverns, and contracting debts they never mean to pay, is not calculated to make them shine at any bar, but an alehouse-bar, and that only for a short season."

* This gentleman will perceive I have made use of his observations in my own way, yet, from the complexion of his letter, I beg to assure him, I am convinced that if he will, as he says he means to do, "try his luck at reporting," his further communications will be both acceptable to me and valuable to the public.