

“Old decays but foster new creations.
 Bones and ashes feed the golden corn,
 Fresh elixirs wander every moment
 Down the veins through which the live past
 Feeds its child—the live unborn.”

These new creations need suitable laws and an adequate jurisprudence. Who can provide it? The conditions are not dissimilar to those of Rome in the days of Justinian when the people looked to the lawyers and jurisconsults to aid them. They did not look in vain. What the lawyers did in the time of Justinian surely we having the advantage of all the past knowledge can do and more. It is significant that those ancient lawyers and jurisconsults often assembled for discussion at the Temple of Apollo and also that the people of Rome selected a house in a frequented street and gave it to one of their great jurisconsults, Scipio Nascia, that he might be ever accessible to them. They gathered knowledge in the secret places of wisdom and gave it to the people among whom they dwelt. So may it be with our splendid profession in the advancement of jurisprudence and the improvement of the administration of justice.

None can so aid the Canadian people as the members of our Bar. In the common judgment of the people, the profession of the law, as they call it generally, and its learned and gifted members are held responsible for what is weak, uncertain and wrong in the law or defective in its administration, and justly so in our democracy for on whom else can they depend to advise and pilot them to better things. Let us not then withhold good from those to whom it is due when it is the power of our hand to do it. Canada has good statesmen and political leaders, but if our skilled lawyers will unite in wisely and energetically carrying out the purposes of the Canadian Bar Association they will confer a benefit upon the country more general and lasting than that of statesmen and politicians.