

of the Judgments rendered by him. One thing is pretty certain, that if left wholly to private enterprise, it is not likely that much will be accomplished for a considerable time. It is notorious that the few elementary and useful books on Law, which have been printed in Lower Canada, have not paid the cost of paper and printing, and it is vain to suppose, that if to this be added the cost of Reporting, there is any sufficient guarantee to a publisher to undertake a series of publications which can be appreciated and purchased by so few.

The imposing of additional tasks on the Judges of the Queen's Bench cannot be recommended by any person acquainted with the actual working of the present system. Legislative aid might do much and could easily be obtained, if not by a direct grant, at least by an enactment which should authorize a slight additional fee on some of the usual proceedings at Law. A shilling or two on each Writ and Judgment, would at once provide a sufficient fund to secure the services of competent persons as Reporters, and the publication of a limited number of copies of the Reports annually. It is strange that with such a large proportion of Professional Gentlemen in the Legislature, no one has as yet fallen upon an easy way of securing for himself the advancement of the Law as a science, the gratitude of the Profession, and the respect of the intelligent and thinking among our population, by bringing forward a measure providing for the publication of accurate Reports of the decisions of our Courts of Justice. Till this be done we must be content with such temporary expedients as may be found to remedy to some extent the evil complained of, or wait until the necessities of the Profession force it to adopt some other means to secure an end so essential to the advancement of the practice and science of Law.

As to Newspaper Reports, they have in most instances hitherto, proved lamentable and laughable caricatures, either from the ignorance, or what is worse, the strong political bias of the Reporters. To appeal to such reports for a correct or intelligible statement or decision of a question of law or fact is not for a moment thought of. Nor indeed is accuracy or impartiality to be expected from such a source. The Reporters make no pretensions to a knowledge even of the simplest and commonest terms, used in Judicial proceedings, while the few cases that are thought worthy of being reported, are precisely those which are of no interest to the Profession, although they are doubtless read with avidity by the public, in the columns of a newspaper.

It is to be hoped that the reports of Judgments of importance which may hereafter be furnished to publications like the present will do something to remedy the evil. The columns of such a review will at least prove a medium of communication with the Profession, to which each member of it may have access. A work which should merely publish, even without a word of explanation, comment or addition, the Judgments rendered in our Superior Courts must prove