

of ten, it is an absolute necessity of Attorney-General nature to introduce entirely new Judicature systems, founded completely on their own ideas; and in the formation of which they scorn to borrow even a solitary suggestion from the highest dignitaries of the Bench, or their most learned brethren of the Bar. An entirely new system every eight years is rather too much of a novelty, when it is considered that during every one of the years intervening between its birth and death, some important amendments are passed which have the effect of so thoroughly disguising its appearance as to cause it scarcely to be recognized by its original projectors. To mature a system of practice, time is as necessary as it is to the fruit of the earth. The harmonious working of the engine of the Law is not brought about in one night; patience, perseverance, and a desire to carry out its precepts and regulations must be manifested both by Judges and Advocates ere it can be said that it has had a fair trial. We have now had for nearly three years in operation Mr. Attorney General Cartier's Code of Practice, by which the most radical changes and extensive reforms were made the subject matter of Legislation; and it is an interesting enquiry to make, whether the objects of the framer have been answered, and the administration of justice rendered more facile to its dispensers, more certain to its claimants.

The chief objects which Mr. Cartier seemed to set steadily before himself at the outset, as the goals of his career, were decentralization, and as close an approximation to the Jury system of England, without the intervention of a Jury, as possibly could be managed. That decentralization is a benefit to the people must be denied: cheap law is a fallacy, and the bringing of Justice to every man's door is frightfully productive of wrong; in the transit her car is knocked to pieces by the ruts of the country roads, and the goddess herself suffers by the falls. The morale of the legal profession is lowered: the country advocate,—the legitimate business of the place being insufficient, in many districts, to afford him means of subsistence,—falls into habits of chicanery and pettifoggery; the resident judge, cut off from society, deprived of the advantages of hearing cases daily argued before him, and of communion with his brethren, becomes dull, rusty, and indolent, and subsides in many cases into hypochondria. To counterbalance these disadvantages, is Justice rendered more speedily to suitors? On a moderate calculation, cases in the country drag over twice the time they take in any of the original Districts; the number of months intervening between the terms; the absence of the leading Advocates, who, in nearly every instance, are residents of the large cities; and the rustiness of the Judges; all combine to defeat the ends of justice. Expense is not saved to the country suitor, for he travels to town to consult with his Advocate a dozen times during the progress of his cause. It may be urged that the members of the legal profession are not the proper judges of the merits of the system, but surely it must be admitted that their opinion on the subject is entitled to some respect; and it may with perfect justice be here advanced as a fact, that the Bar, as a body, are inclined to look upon decentralization as a mistake, the country not being as yet sufficiently advanced in population and in wealth for so onerous and expensive a measure.

It is infinitely more pleasant to write in terms of praise than in those of censure when the public acts of a man who has the interests of his country at heart are