

vatism and this spirit has undoubtedly a healthy function in balancing sincere and public-spirited but sometimes hasty and ill-considered efforts for change or innovation. Such a function is, however, of a negative character and the spirit which it exemplifies cannot be regarded as the controlling characteristic of the Bar of either country. Lawyers in the United States and in our Commonwealth have always recognized, and to-day they are recognizing in increasing degree, the positive duty of lending their talents and sympathies to constructive endeavour for such development of law as may make it adequately responsive to the needs of changing social and national conditions.

Nearly a thousand years ago our fathers united in the struggle out of which arose that ancient and renowned charter which still declares the equal rights of all men before the law. We, their descendants, are striving, uncertainly and painfully it may be, to establish the great modern charter of democracy by which shall be given to all men equality of opportunity so far as that may humanly be possible.

A great lawyer who sits upon the bench of your highest court—a jurist known and admired not only in your own country but also wherever the King's writ runs—has declared that the purpose of the law must be found in some help which law brings towards reaching a social end. This higher function of the lawyer has recently been recognized as I understand by one of your greatest law schools in declaring, as a prime purpose of its policy, that its students shall be equipped with the training and inspired with the ideals which will enable them to realize and undertake this high duty.

For the lawyer who is animated by a true conception of the dignity of his profession there is, however, a not less important duty in a wider field than that of domestic jurisprudence. To the Bar of a great neutral nation not less than to the lawyers of our own world-wide Commonwealth the events of the past two years have made apparent the importance of defining international law and right in such terms and of maintaining them by such sanctions that the peace of the world shall be maintained and international justice vindicated against any offending nation. The life of every people is in some measure bound up with the