

LAW SCHOOL—INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

the happiest manner and evidencing the wonderful memory of the lecturer :—

The learned Treasurer of the Law Society began by saying it gave him great pleasure to attend the opening of the Law School, and to see so many past and present students before him. All who knew anything of the Law Society knew that the great object sought to be attained was the education of men who were coming to the Bar. Nothing to which they could devote themselves was so conducive to their ultimate welfare and to the interest of the whole country. They were probably aware that the position of the Law Society was a foremost one. It might not be amiss, on that occasion, to allude to the history of the Society of which they were members, and the duties and benefits attached to it. It was nearly eighty years since a voluntary society was formed by those, who, having been admitted to the Bar, desired that a high education should be available for their successors; and so they framed a code of regulations, which they desired should be in force with that object in view. That voluntary society remained such only a short time. From 1791 they dated their status as a separate Province. Six years later, in 1797, the voluntary society became a legal organization. Under the Statute by which it had become incorporated, it had sought to fulfil the obligations laid on it by law. It was a singular circumstance that in this Province of all the British dominions, for a long series of years, it was the only Society that required an examination for men claiming to be admitted to the Bar; and to its founders they were indebted for a system that has since been so fully adopted elsewhere, for the training of men who so much affected the destinies of the people at large. In the early days of the Province, before his student days, a class, called the Trinity Class of Students, was formed in order that young men coming to the Bar should become acquainted with the principles and practice of the law in this Province. That class existed for many years, and before many then present were born; that very room was the scene of their discussions. After some years the Trinity Class died; but it was productive of much good, and it might have been still more productive of benefit if it had continued; and there was no doubt that the class then opened might be of much advantage to them as a means of placing themselves before the public with all the knowledge that could be acquired. In the position which the Law Society had been obliged to assume, it

had been his desire, during a practice extending over thirty-four years, as far as lay in his power, to afford every facility to men to enter the profession with every possible educational advantage. There was no higher duty than that of training young men; and their duty was best discharged in carrying out that purpose. For years past they had endeavoured to accomplish that object, and it was only now that they had acquired the power of giving the men, who, by earnest study, had acquired the necessary education through the profession itself, the advantages which they might have acquired by a University course: and to give to these men the same privileges in shortening their legal course that were enjoyed by those who had taken a University degree. He concluded from their presence there that night that their efforts had been successful. Since the Law Society had determined on this course, he had had many letters from the country from men claiming that non-residence should not debar them from these privileges. But the plea these gentlemen put forth was not a tenable one, because they might qualify themselves for the examination by cramming; whereas the object the Society had in view was to impart a groundwork of thorough knowledge: and they might be assured that any time or money that might be devoted to residence there and an attendance on the Law Society lectures would redound to them most abundantly in their subsequent career. The object of the Society could only be successfully carried out by the plan decided on. They had adopted this system before it was adopted in any other part of the Dominions of Great Britain: and he had received letters from eminent men in the old country with reference to its working (cheers). Only recently in consequence of a threat made by the present Lord Chancellor, then Sir Roundell Palmer, the Inns of Court had combined in doing in England that which had been done for a long time past in this Province. The Benchers had endeavoured to carry out the objects of the Society perfectly: and the satisfaction they had themselves felt in training an able body of men would be reflected on them in the days to come. The position of the Province at that moment, with regard to education, was different from what it had ever been before 1870. At that moment the necessity for a larger education with regard to legal subjects was patent to all. Originally they had only to do with their own Province; but in a short time they would have a Supreme Court; and it could not be but that every man would feel that he must be prepared