

EDITORIAL NOTES—PROTECTION V. FREE TRADE.

and complexity to any penned by the great American jurist might perhaps be culled from the pages of our Supreme Court Reports.

"The Legal Education Committee of the Benchers of Canada recommend that for the years 1882, 1883, 1884, and 1885, students at law and articled clerks shall be primarily examined in Xenophon, Homer, Cæsar, Cicero, Virgil, Ovid, The Deserted Village, The Task, Marmion, and Gray's Elegy. This is an eminently respectable course, but very mournful. There is something almost significantly prophetic, in these English titles, of the inevitable course of the average barrister; a deserted village, a hard task, a heroic struggle, a country churchyard. It lacks nothing but the supplement of Paradise Lost. Perhaps it was not so intended. There is nothing in the selected classics to lighten it up much. Ovid's Art of Love is not included. Why have the Benchers omitted the time-honored and generally inevitable Spectator, Course of Time and Essay on Man? We fear these Benchers have shed their intellectual kneepans. If they really want to test the pupil's efficiency, let them set him at Browning's Ring and the Book, Carlyle *passim*, Ruskin of late, or a select sentence of three pages from one of Mr. Evarts' speeches. If they can make head or tail of these they will succeed in their chosen profession."

PROTECTION V. FREE TRADE.

Our attention has been called to the advertisement of a solicitor residing in Toronto who advertises in the daily papers his willingness to do "conveyancing at one half usual charges, cash." The Discipline Committee of the Law Society will probably be called on at an early day to discuss the subject in detail. There is, however, one feature of the case which it is well to observe before going into these details.

One's feeling of disgust at seeing a professional man condescend to the tricks of those "impudent invaders," whose ignorance is their only excuse, is somewhat mitigated by the consideration that the advertiser may, in a certain sense, be acting in self-defence.

Utterly objectionable as such an advertisement is, it is possible to suppose that having a keen sense of humor, he is possessed by a desire to bring forcibly before the Benchers the position of those of his brethren who are to a great extent dependent upon fees derived from conveyancing for a living. We are not prepared to say that the Law Society has, as a body, any right to bring the delinquent to book, inasmuch as its government has never made any effort to prevent the evil which this person may now, in a miserable, short-sighted way, we admit, be endeavoring to protect himself against. It is not, of course, a matter of any moment to the "eminent counsel" and leaders of the Bar, who in the main compose that body, whether the conveyancing business of the country passes into the hands of ignorant quacks or not. It cannot be supposed for a moment that an explanation of this remissness is to be found in the fact that the untying of the knots produced by the practice of these unlicensed gentry affords profitable employment to our legal magnates in their chambers and in Court, for a more highminded body of gentlemen individually, it would be impossible to find in any country; but neither has it occurred to them, apparently, that they are placed there to protect, or at least to endeavour to protect, the interests of others in a matter which is to the latter a question of vital interest.

We have so far alluded to a difficulty which we are sure will present itself to many, should this advertisement be brought before the committee, on the supposition that it was intended as a means of meeting the attack of the class referred to; if, however, the intention of the advertiser was to attract clients to his own office at the expense of his brethren in the profession, we can only say that he is unworthy of being ranked amongst those who as a class, both at the Bar and on the Bench, have earned an honorable reputation, and fostered a spirit of respect for, and obedience to the laws, without which no country can eventually prosper.