that of contempt for the Bench, and that the proof thereof was established by the language used on that occasion. It was an assertion of superiority, inconsistent with and dangerous to free institutions. Fleming did not leave his boarding-house with the intention of slaying his victim, but the possession of dangerous weapons was considered evidence of intention. So also, Mr. Cartier, by his bearing towards the Bar and the Bench, excluded any other interpretation than that of malicious intent. As he dealt out justice to that boy, so he received it at the hands of his order.

Mr. Cartier, it may be admitted, may have been misled by the attidude of some Members of the Bar and Bench towards him, an attidude inconsistent with the indeperdence and spirit which ought to animate the members of a liberal and honorable profession. The Legislature, in an unguarded moment, had placed in the hands of the Attorney-General the power of selecting members of the Bench for Commissioners, with increased emoluments, and of promoting them from an inferior to a superior grade. It had enabled him also to name Advocates to new and lucrative appointments. The result was, that the expectants, with few and honorable exceptions, instead of qualifying themselves for such distinctions, occupied their time not in the performance of professional duties, but in following the movements and executing with servile alacrity the wishes and directions of the dispenser of so much and valuable patronage. In some respects Mr. Cartier is to be admired. His word is his bond. If he says he will do a thing, you may consider it accomplished. The parasites which surround him he treats with disdain. He orders and he pays. They obey and receive their wages, but he does not condescend to terms of friendship with them.

The Bar, in their support of the Chief Justice and Mr. Aylwin, were not influenced by private motives. They did not examine the names of the individuals; they merely considered the principle at stake. They protest against the view taken by one of the newspaper correspondents, who coolly admits that if he had thought the language applied to a particular Member of the Bench he would have concurred in the action of the Bar. Such views are not shared in by the Bar. They are not the slaves of the Bench, and they are not disposed for any consideration to *agenouiller* themselves to any Member of the Bench.

The Resolutions complaining of the delay in making Judicial appointments, and pointing out the danger to the independence of the Bench of converting Judges into Commissioners, were rendered necessary in consequence of the evil results attending the power thus conferred on the Attorney-General, and the delay permitted to elapse for its exercise. Painful suspicions were prevalent, and universal fear and doubt occupied the minds of those who ought to have been filled with confidence and trust. The case of the Ministerial shuffle having been decided in Upper Canada in an unsatisfactory manner, the propriety of trying the question in Lower Canada was entertained; but anxieties were felt as to the Bench before whom the question must have been tried. The Shuffler-in-Chief, the Minister responsible for the flagrant evasion of the Law, could appoint to other and more valuable offices, and it was determined that a question involving his political existence could not safely be tried by persons who had been reduced into subjection by the improvidence of the Legislature. To avoid the criticisms which the failure of the prosecution would have evoked, the trial of the question was abandoned—the preservation of the ermine from the suspicion of political bias and subserviency was paramount—the Bar then could only denounce the practices as unwise and unconstitutional, destructive alike to the respectability of the Judges and the interests and liberties of the country.

The Resolution declaring that the office of Attorney-General had been degraded into a mere political employment, was intended to mark the condemnation of the Bar of the system of appointing persons as Crown Officers not qualified by their legal attainments to discharge the duties of the office. The Attorney-General should be found in Court, and if he were, he would be made to respect his order by the Members of the Bar he would encounter; but the running about corridors and lobbies, and whipping in absentees by telegraphs are now the important duties devolving upon Her Majesty's Attorney-General for Lower Canada.

The course adopted by the Bar, will not be considered by the Bench as adulatory; but, on the contrary, will be recognised as a manly and independent movement, calculated to check the encroachments of the Executive, and to impose upon the Bench, the necessity of so comporting themselves as to obtain the approval of the order to which they belong. It will prevent any *tripotage* between the Attorney-General and any Member of the Bench, and save us and the country from political influences in the disposal of the Judicial patronage of the Crown.

There were other Resolutions proposed at the preliminary meeting, which did not meet with unanimous approval, and in consequence were withdrawn. The object of them was to condemn the majority of the House of Assembly who supported Mr. Cartier on the occasion in question, and by that means it was intended to warn the Members of the profession, in Parliament that they had responsibilities towards their order which no selfish personal advantage should induce them to forget.

It was also contemplated to convey to the Governor-General, that he had certain duties to perform, and that if he continued to play the insignificant part he has been doing in the Government of this country he might find that he had been made an accomplice in a state of things in Canada similar to that in the Ionian Islands.