

A sneer and a laugh all round the House. Suppose any poor devil were to exercise this common-law right, and attempt to go forward and plead his own cause in our courts? He would find what the old and venerable men in our city found when they attempted to obtain a seat within our justice halls — that the barristers' seats are filled by a parcel of boys, who would look with pert impudence upon the intruder. Any man who attempts to exercise this common-law right, as it is called, will find that it is just such a right as no man will attempt to exercise more than once. Sir, in my youth, I tried it; and had I not possessed nerves of iron I should never have been enabled to bear the passive resistance, the self-satisfied irony, which rested upon nine-tenths of the countenances of those around me. But the honorable gentleman says I am not giving the principle involved in this bill its full scope.

Sir, there is more than one way of defeating a measure; you may either oppose it openly, or restrict it within such limits as to make it absurd. Now, I shall not follow the lead of the honorable member, I shall not commit either of these acts of folly; and I will not take the suggestion of the honorable member for Pietou [Mr. Blackadar]. He seemed to view with horror undisguised the opening up of our bench as an incentive to more active exertion for our people. I will go back to no very distant period, when two members of this Legislature were placed upon the bench — vacancies occurred, and a judgeship was given to each. Sir, had Herbert Huntington received this honor, and been called upon to decide any of those complicated questions which may have come before the two learned judges mentioned, I will venture to affirm that he would have dived to the root of the matter, whatever it was, and given as righteous and as just a decision as either of them. But the honorable member for King's asks, "Why not bring in barristers from abroad?" Has he sat here for years and years, a lawyer, and never thought of this proposition until to-day? Does he bring it forward now because he wishes my bill to pass? I do not believe it. No! no! The honorable gentleman wishes to attach something to the tail of the kite which may prevent its soaring into the heavens, and eventually prostrate it in the mud. Were a lawyer from the States, the Canadas, New Brunswick, or any other portion of the globe, to make his appearance here to conduct a suit in opposition to the honorable gentleman, I think I am safe in asserting that the first exception he would take would be to the legal qualification of his opponent.

The honorable gentleman wishes the judges to have the power of allowing any man, upon the application of the party interested, to plead for him. This might prove efficient, but there are serious difficulties in