

It will not be said that this journal has been unmindful of its duties in upholding the dignity and good name of the Bench. We have therefore no hesitation in referring to the subject, especially as it is interwoven with the high standard of the Bar and the welfare of the community at large. We are not unmindful of the evil resulting from criticism of the judiciary by the lay press, fanning, as it does, the flame of revolt against authority, forever smouldering in the dregs of society; but we are not writing to the public, but to and for those who are deeply interested in the subject, and are themselves actors in the scene.

Sacred as are the rights of the Bench, equally so are those of the Bar, who are the helpmeets of the Bench, and the ranks of the former are the recruiting ground of the latter. To the judges, the profession, and especially its younger members, look for, or should look for, inspiration and a worthy example, and so it comes that as is the Bench, so will be the Bar. A decadence in the tone of the one works a corresponding decadence in that of the other.

It may as well be said plainly that there is a feeling of dissatisfaction on the part of the Bar, and especially of its younger members in certain parts of the Dominion, at their discourteous treatment by some judges. Indignant and angry comment is also heard in reference to the ungoverned temper which so frequently disturbs the harmony of our highest Court. If we are told that its chief is a man of great ability, it may be answered that we can better dispense with a judge of extraordinary attainments than with that which conserves the respect due to the sovereign power which he represents.

In some instances discourtesy to the Bar is of a nature which can only be characterized as cowardly. It is not the leaders of the Bar who are on these occasions treated to a sneer, or a snub, or a rude rebuff, but rather those whose youth and inexperience would give to the large hearted, generous judge, strong in the knowledge of his power, the happy opportunity of encouraging the timid, teaching the inexperienced, or, if necessary, courteously rebuking a breach