

of democracy. . . . Men who have more especially devoted themselves to legal pursuits derive from this occupation certain habits of order and a taste for formalities and a kind of distinctive regard for the regular connection of ideas which render them very hostile to the revolutionary spirit or the unreflecting passions of the multitude. . . . In all their governments, of whatsoever form they may be, members of the legal profession will be found at the head of all parties. . . . A people in democratic states does not mistrust the members of the legal profession, because it is well known that they are interested in serving the popular cause, and it listens to them without irritation because it does not attribute to them any sinister designs. . . . I question whether democratic institutions could be long maintained and I cannot believe that a republic could subsist at the present time if the influence of the lawyers in public business did not increase in proportion to the power of the people. . . . Does it so increase in Canada? This Association is but newly born, but born, let us hope, to be the heir and clear expression of the best traditions of the Bar in all ages.

It is said that a corporation which has been for some time in existence and has a history, and noble purposes, acquires a personality which is quite distinct from the personality of its members. One has often heard it said of business corporations, especially before juries, that they have no bodies to be kicked or souls to be damned. Such a conception is entirely inappropriate to other great corporations (conventional or legal) which through passing years have developed an esprit de corps such as universities, churches and some compact nations. These have a compelling influence over their members, a centripetal attraction which brings supporting loyalty and creates a oneness of thought and feeling which means power in that organization.

The learned professions have that esprit de corps to some extent. It exists, though not in a very cohesive way, among lawyers. De Tocqueville, speaking again about lawyers, says, "they naturally constitute a body not by any previous understanding or by an agreement which directs them to a