

CORRESPONDENCE.

as every sign of the times shows it very soon must, our profession at all events, will be thoroughly conversant with it, and able to bring their influence to bear upon it through their respective members. We may then have the proper sort of legislation upon it, which we never yet have had, and I believe without the aid of your journal, never will.

What we want, and at this late day, at all events, have a right to expect, is one really good act, which will settle everything for years to come, or at least put everything in the proper course to accomplish that result, instead of another series of that annually worrying legislation to which we have hitherto been subjected, each act of which reforms so little that the change, uncertainty and disturbance which it necessarily occasions does actually more harm than the miserably small and niggardly dose of legal reform we get does good.

In conclusion—as unexplained, this letter might by some be interpreted as a personal attack on Mr. Mowat, I beg to say nothing is further from my intention. I, in common, with I believe the whole profession, which includes persons of all shades of politics, entertain a very high opinion of Mr. Mowat as a lawyer. As a judge I, and I believe many others, have been accustomed to consider him, together with the late Chancellors Blake and VanKoughnet, as our very best judicial Reformers; men who as judges did all they could to work out justice, regardless of all mere forms and technicalities that fetter weaker men. No one who has practiced in their court can be unaware of the improvements they introduced during their time, or of what the country and the profession have suffered in losing them, but I confess it often troubles me and others of Mr. Mowat's personal friends to reconcile his very satisfactory record as a judge, his judicial courage and determination in pushing aside as far as he

could, and so frequently as he did, the many inane technicalities which continually strove to interpose themselves between him and justice—with his far less satisfactory role of a legislative legal reformer. I can only account for it in this way, (which many who ought to know believe is the true one), viz.: that he could not give us all the legal reform he wished (as "A City Solicitor" suggested) without the aid of the Dominion Government; and that he has hitherto been unable to obtain that aid. And that he has been prevented by the exigencies of party discipline from divulging the causes which partially, at all events, excuse his delay.

I have the honor to remain,

Yours, &c.,

Q. C.

The Law of Dower.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE LAW JOURNAL:

Pursue we now the enquiry into the second division of this part of our subject, namely, the widow's consummate right to dower.

The husband being deceased, the whole element of contingency which characterized her interest as wife, having therefore disappeared, the widow stands in a new position with regard to her late husband's estate, in that she has an immediate right, consummate and vested in her person, to proceed against that estate for a third portion thereof, to be enjoyed for her lifetime. Whereas, she was a wife; now she is a widow. And whereas, she was, as wife, entitled but to wait for a certain contingency to happen, in order that it might be determined, whether she would ever actually enjoy in its fulness her then inchoate interest; now, that event having happened, consequent thereupon vests in her the power to assert her new right, and to ask for its immediate enjoyment. Whereas, prior to her husband's