

tion and consequent inability to continue it, has greatly marred the carrying out of the object in view for this year. It is understood that as soon as he feels himself equal to the task he will take up the subject again, and his reappearance in the chair will be hailed with delight by, and give renewed confidence both to, the regular students and to those for whom his lectures are specially prepared, and who have availed themselves of the opportunity.

A suggestion has been made that each of the professors should prepare and deliver one free public lecture during the present session. This, if put into execution, would have the effect of bringing the school into more public prominence and favor, and, at the same time, would disseminate amongst our citizens the principles of jurisprudence under which we live. Undoubtedly this would imply a great amount of self-sacrifice for, and devotion to, the faculty, on the part of the professors, but would be more than compensated by the knowledge of having accomplished some good for the University, and conferred an everlasting benefit upon their fellow-citizens.

In order to comply with the new regulations of the Bar, four lectures, one in the morning and three in the afternoon, are now delivered daily. To attend these and likewise perform the duties incumbent upon students in their respective offices, is more than can be well and effectually accomplished. No time whatever can be given to private reading. Some remedy must be applied to this existing evil. Since the Bar demands that the student should be indentured for four years, and attend in the neighborhood of eleven hundred lectures, the introduction of some system whereby the greater part of the two first years should be devoted to the work of the University and to private reading is imperative. It is impossible to be perfectly qualified to enter the profession without considerable knowledge of the nature of the office, but, nevertheless, it is still more imperative that the great underlying principles of law should be thoroughly mastered. When the student has once grasped these principles, the application of them will be easy, and the experience of the office will completely prepare him to enter upon the responsible duties of an advocate. Article VI. of the report of the joint committee appointed last year by the Law Society of Ontario and the Senate of the University of Toronto, on the establishment and maintenance of a law faculty, says: "Students of the first and second years must not be under articles nor engaged otherwise than as students of the University." This report recommended the four years' course, but it also, as this article indicates, approved of devoting the first part to theoretical train-

ing, and, as far as possible, removing the idea of making law a mere trade to be learned by an apprenticeship, which the Bar of this Province seems to desire. Again, our own Medical Faculty has based its system upon the same principle of first acquiring the theoretical knowledge of the profession and afterwards the practical. As the four years' indentureship has evidently become fixed law, it is the duty of the Bar and Universities to arrange the lectures and the office work to the best advantage of the students, and some such plan as suggested in the report above referred to must eventually be adopted.

CANADA FIRST.

For some time past it has been almost impossible to glance over the city press without finding some stirring editorial, literary review, news item, or correspondence expressive of Canadian national sentiment. Two letters on the subject have recently appeared in the *Witness*; the first from Miss Blanche L. Macdonell, alludes to the "Old South Boston courses" of lectures in the States, on American history, and suggests that something of the kind be started in our own country. "We Canadians," she says, "absolutely require a knowledge of our own local history and institutions. * * * Our lack of unity of aim, national feeling, may prove one of the most pressing dangers that may threaten the Dominion; one of the greatest stumbling blocks in its path of progress; one of the most powerful obstacles to the construction of an important nationality. * * * Nothing stands in the way of community of interests so completely as the ignorance that prevails concerning each other's ideas, customs and prejudices, the common origin, the causes that have created our political and religious institutions." The second letter is in answer to this, and is signed "Wilfred Chateaucclair." The writer repudiates the idea that there is a lack of national sentiment among us. On the contrary, he claims that there is "A vast unorganized force throughout the country, scarcely conscious of its strength," and instances as a proof, the conduct of our volunteers in the North-West Rebellion." He says that "A question far more vital is the organization of this great force, capable of infinite national possibilities and ideas," and that the responsibility rests, in a great measure, on the schools and Colleges.

Our public schools, though long derelict in the matter, are now doing their utmost to direct the arrow of young Canada's enthusiasm nation-ward. The series of school readers shews an eminently national character, and in Montreal, at least, the first secular