

and energy, that this want has been supplied, and that we are privileged to be present here to-night at the formal opening of this building.

The Law Society of to-day stands in a very different position to what it did when I entered it, as a student, forty-four years ago. A very small room would then suffice for the examination of the students, and although as time has rolled on, increased facilities have periodically been provided, yet it has of late so outgrown itself that it has become an imperative necessity to secure larger and more suitable accommodation in order that the candidates might have a fairer examination than they were having in the old building, and I maintain, sir, that the Benchers, with ample means at their disposal, would have been highly censurable had they failed to carry out these improvements so necessary towards the promotion and advancement of higher legal education.

In every direction around us we see noble seats of learning springing up, costly structures, whereon all that art and high artistic skill can achieve have been lavishly expended; and should the Law Society of Upper Canada, which can count among its members men who have adorned and still adorn some of the highest positions in public life, prove laggards in the race, or fail to obtain a fitting abode for its members whilst those of other schools of learning are so sumptuously provided for?

Again, if the young men of Ontario who are looking to the law for their profession are accustomed to be associated and brought into everyday contact with such surroundings as these, will they not necessarily tend to exert a beneficial influence over them and to raise their thoughts and aspirations to nobler aims and higher purposes?

What do we witness if we return to the Motherland in this respect? Fabulous sums expended to raise pile upon pile of the grandest and noblest design, and all done to give dignity and stability to their seats of law—as the palatial buildings recently erected in the heart of the great city of London will abundantly testify to-day.

Until very recently, Mr. Treasurer, the very name of the distinguished individual, after whom these buildings have been called, was but little known, and to many it was a matter of doubt if such a being ever existed; but through the liberality which has characterized your administration, as Treasurer, the name of Chief Justice Osgoode has been rescued from oblivion, and his likeness (for which we are indebted to the courtesy of the Rev. Dr. Scadding) has been painted by Berthon, and now looks down from our walls upon our deliberations every time we assemble in convocation, so that without adverting to the numerous other schemes for the promotion of legal education which have been carried into effect under your administration, the Law Society under your auspices is daily making fresh departures in the field of progress and advancement.

But I feel that I am digressing, and as I have been warned to "cut it short" I shall be very brief, for I am aware that there is much to be done to-night; but I feel, in justice to our architect, Mr. Storm, I should say something in approval of the masterly manner in which he has carried out this work entrusted to him, and I think, Mr. Treasurer, if you and those who have kindly favoured us with their presence here to-night will only judge for yourselves, you can come to no other conclusion than that for breadth of design and for beauty of detail his whole work has been most harmonious and complete. Of his "ancient skill" you have only to survey the graceful propor-

tions of the library, main hall, and corridors of the central building to pronounce him to be a thorough and accomplished architect.

Neither should I omit to say a good word for the contractors, all of whom (and I say it "without prejudice" to our claims for delays) have acquitted themselves to our satisfaction in carrying out their several contracts under the supervision of the architect, and of Mr. John Smith, the Society's careful clerk of works.

I shall no longer take up your time, Mr. Treasurer, but conclude by formally handing over to you, on behalf of the committee which I have the honour to represent, the hall of "Osgoode Hall."

The Treasurer replied in his usual eloquent manner, and we regret not to have a verbatim report of his speech. His remarks were in substance as follows:—

On behalf of the Law Society he accepted at the hands of the chairman of the Building Committee the new structure in its present complete state, but at the same time he could not individually claim that large amount of merit which had been assigned him as regards the undertaking. He referred to the feeling of unanimity which prevailed regarding the success of the builders' handiwork, and said that the profession had some reason to congratulate themselves upon this addition to their estate. The last occasion, the hon. gentleman said, on which this society had entertained anyone was 22 years ago, when they had the honour of receiving the heir to the English throne. Looking at the society to-day, what was its position as compared with that of former times? Then there were 600 or 700 barristers upon the rolls, now there were 1,700 or 1,800, and that single statement would show how totally inadequate the accommodation which then existed was for the present day. The profession was in some respects a close one and necessarily so. In the seven provinces which constituted the Dominion of Canada the legal profession would be found pretty well represented. In the provinces of British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island the Lieutenant-Governor in each case was a lawyer. All persons know that there is one individual in every country constitutionally governed who is even more powerful than a Lieutenant-Governor, namely his First Minister and adviser. The First Minister of Ontario is a lawyer, the First Minister of British Columbia is a lawyer, and so on with the provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The First Minister of Canada is also a lawyer, and he believed that if the cold realms of the Opposition were invaded the profession would be found to be fairly represented. With reference to the saying that the profession had been made a close one, if such were the case it was for the public good. It is important that those who desire to resort to law as a profession should be submitted to a test, and upon the Law Society of this Province has devolved the duty of applying these tests in the shape of examinations, and these were what tended to make the profession a restricted one. In order that this duty might be discharged conscientiously, it was found necessary from time to time to promote a better system of examination. The Society had found some difficulty in their way owing to the increasing numbers of candidates. The learned gentleman here made an amusing reference to the fact that considerable cribbing and copying had been in vogue among students in by-gone years, owing to the fact that the seats had been placed