

## RESPONSIBILITY AS SEPARATE INDIVIDUALS.

In a Constitutional Government, such as the one we live under, it is every man's duty, as well as privilege, to contribute the fruits of his mature thought in the general structure of the Government and institutions of the country. Then, first, do you think the best ends have been served by making a man's being a lawyer the passport into our Legislature and Government bodies!—the fact being that about nine-tenths of our members of Parliament are of that profession. Let us suppose a case:—Do you think the best ends would be served for the general benefit of your Municipality if you should call from a distant Municipality as many tailors as you have Reeves, Deputy Reeves and Councillors, to transact your local municipal business, instead of selecting those who are likely, from their practical knowledge, to know the wants of your particular section? But in our case let us go farther:—Do you think that if, instead of nine-tenths lawyers, we had nine-tenths doctors of medicine, do you think this would be in accordance with practical common sense? or that you should make all wheat speculators your Legislators, and that when you had not one at home you would send to a distant place and get one. Why, the theory is absurd; yet not more so than the present House of Parliament. I do not mean to censure lawyers for this state of things, for those are to blame who put them there. What have the fruits of legislation been for the last number of years? Nothing but a patching-up of laws—no sound, solid measure of material interest has been advanced or passed. Long debates about abstract questions, which it mattered but little, so far as the real interest of the country was concerned, which way they were decided. It's a remarkable fact but two men who have more than any other left the indelible marks of genius upon our country were not lawyers. I refer to William Hamilton Merritt and Francis Hincks. The people are to blame for this. Is it to be expected a House full of lawyers are to be so disinterested, so lifted above self-interest, and so much purer than any other class of men that in making laws, and doing the whole thinking for the country, passing the whole of the taxes and revenue through their hands, that they will ignore all selfishness, and legislate without reference to themselves or their own interest? Indeed, I have been told that a bill has been brought into the House by the Hon. John Hillyard Cameron, to the effect that no man shall draw a deed, mortgage, or any law document, save and except a lawyer, under a heavy penalty or fine. I say this is an unhealthy state of things, and it would be absurd to suppose that good, sound legislation could be possible upon all the diversified and extensive interests, trades and professions by any such mode. This is one of many causes that have contributed to our present state of paralysis. The farmers of this country have not yet felt the trouble that seems to have shown itself in the towns. Every train from every town in Canada is bearing away from us more or less of our mechanics, labourers and others, and indeed from the Counties of Huron and Bruce many

your  
deve  
rather

Th  
lands  
the  
coun  
lower  
are a  
count  
first  
who  
but si  
They  
who i  
to pa  
make  
foreign  
that  
dreds  
twent  
accun  
empti  
had d  
paid t  
The l  
ments  
Yet th

O  
The  
in the  
men o  
from  
and, n  
has be  
far a  
square  
that w  
whole  
the Un  
enough  
reading  
obligat  
whilat  
is their  
terms  
lst.  
number