

one and the same time. Up to last year, when he accepted the portfolio of Marine and Fisheries in the Laurier Ministry, he had been in constant practice before the public tribunals—the most notable matters in which he was engaged as counsel probably being the P. E. Island Tenantry Commission, (presided over by the Right Honorable Sir Hugh Childers,) in which he represented the tenantry, and the International Fishery Commission at Halifax in 1877, in which he was one of the counsel for the Dominion Government. Sir Louis is only now in the prime of life, and may reasonably look forward to many more years of public usefulness and distinction.

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BOOK-LEARNING NO DISQUALIFICATION FOR THE BENCH.—Now that the rumour of the appointment of the Honourable David Mills to the Bench of the Supreme Court of Canada is being revived, we again hear the objection urged against him that he is an "academic" lawyer, a mere book-worm—one who, to put it shortly in our own words, has studied law as a science instead of being taught by daily practice in the Courts to regard it as a fortuitous concourse of "cases." Of course this objection quite ignores Mr. Mills' thirty years training in the mother of all the Courts—the High Court of Parliament; but we do not intend these brief remarks as an apology for Mr. Mills—it being our object merely to point out that experience, so far from demonstrating that extensive practice in the Courts is a *sine qua non* in the cultivation of the judicial quality, establishes not only that our greatest judges have owed more of their success to their scholastic bent than to their training in the Courts, but that time and again the most skilful practitioners make the poorest judges. So early in the history of the law as the time of Plato the training of the mere Advocate was not regarded as either liberalizing or elevating in its effect upon the mind. (See the *Theætetus*, III. 375). Forensic practice under the Roman system was not viewed as any more conducive to the nurture of the judicial quality, if we are to credit all that the Latin satirists have to tell us about it. The history of the English Bench from the