

ture of Civil and Criminal jurisprudence of all civilized nations."

Law is as ancient as Time itself, and is as absolutely necessary to the progress and advancement of a people as is the atmosphere they breathe. Rome's greatness, as mistress of the ancient world, can be traced directly to her laws, as they developed, so did Rome develop; upon the sole foundation of truth and justice, the Romans succeeded in building up one of the grandest systems of jurisprudence the world has ever known; and it may be laid down as a rule, applicable in every case, that just as the laws of a country approach a state of perfection, the people of that country will prosper, become civilized, intelligent and powerful. In a word, law is the basis, the grand pivot upon which all else depends.

Of the legal profession we may say as was said of the ancient house of Douglas "Men have seen it in the stream, but not in the fountain." It has been present at the birth and has witnessed the gradual decay of Empires. It has watched the overthrow of religions, and has contested with the Church the merit of having been transmitted without intermission from the time of the Caesars, and even then, it was hoary with antiquity. Demosthenes in the Athenian Court three hundred years before the time of Cicero, and two hundred years before Demosthenes, Solon compiled and codified the laws.

Medicine is only in its infancy. During all the vast period of history it was a pseudo-science, practised only by astrological quacks. Indeed, it was not until the discovery of the circulation of the blood, some two hundred and fifty years ago, that the profession assumed any real importance. Science is also in its infancy. Compare with these the glorious history of the legal profession.

It has been said that the lawyer requires the skill of a stair builder, the art of an engineer, the eye of an artist and the genius of an experienced machinist; but we may go farther, and say that he must be imbued with noble principles of honesty, integrity and honor. Like the old Roman jurists, he must feel that he was born to be an Advocate, a Judge and a Statesman.

The Faculties of Medicine and Science may teach the anatomy of the human frame and the mechanism of the entire earth, but that Department, the object of which is to educate the young man in a knowledge of the laws that are to regulate the conduct of his fellow man, society, commerce, and the great business affairs of the world, is, by the very nature of its work, one of the most vitally important institutions of this or of any country.

*Grave responsibility* rests with the Law Faculty of McGill University. It is the cradle, not only of the Advocate, but of the Judge and the Legislator. It is the training ground of men who, in after life, are to share in no small degree the direction of the affairs of the State. It is to the graduates of this faculty, mainly, that the minority of this country must look for the proper enactment and just execution of our laws. Has this faculty always received that recognition, encouragement and aid from the University and from the public it justly deserves? We can only

answer in the negative. But notwithstanding this, it has done grand work in the past, and its future now looks brighter than ever. It has lately been the happy recipient of a magnificent and timely donation from one whose name will ever be remembered and cherished by the students of McGill College. We hope this is only the beginning of a series of events which will place the Faculty of Law of McGill University upon a footing compatible with the important and responsible position it occupies and must continue to occupy in this country.

#### Gentlemen Professors:

In taking leave of you as pupils, words cannot express our gratitude and thanks for the care you have taken in our instruction, and for the kindly courtesy which you have shown towards us in the intercourse we have had. You have preceded us in the paths of legal learning, and you have imparted to us the knowledge and experience you have yourselves acquired by the study and practice of your profession. Although differing in politics, nationality and religious creeds, you have united to sacrifice all prejudices and labored together for the common interests of your students; and our University has reason to congratulate herself for the fostering of a liberal and cordial spirit among the students of a profession so influential as the law, and in a mixed community such as ours. Although the relations which have hitherto subsisted between us are now to be dissolved, yet, we hope soon to have the pleasure of meeting you in the professional arena, if not as equals, at least as striving to attain equality. Even then, we feel sure, you will have an interest in watching our progress, and that our every success will be looked upon by you with satisfaction and pride, since it is to you we owe the training which forms the groundwork of any triumph we may hereafter achieve.

As we now pass from your fostering care to give place to our fellow students, we would already reflect discredibly on your instructions did we not pledge ourselves to a firm purpose; to remember with pride the institution of which we are the offspring, and never to sully the fair escutcheon of that University, whose distinctions have been this day intrusted to our care.

Fellow students, whom we leave behind us, permit me to say a few words to you in parting. It would ill become me, so lately one of yourselves, to offer you any advice. You are our equals in ability and industry, and look forward to the same reward of your labors as we have reaped to-day. Although we are going out from you, we shall not cease to be of you, and, wishing you every success in your college career, we wait to welcome you to the ranks of graduates.

But one thing permit me to call to your mind; one of the grandest elements of success in the University is that *esprit de corps* which exists not only between the students of one Faculty, but between those of different Faculties. That a new step has been taken in this direction during the past year we can all bear witness. Do your best to foster it and look upon yourselves not simply as students of the Faculty of law, but as having a common interest in