

selves are subjected. I hope before this Bill passes the House it may be amended so as to include the subjects to which I have referred. I have no doubt that it is desirable, in the interests of peace, in the interests of that true civilization, in which the muscle does not count, but the mind is everything, that we should endeavor, so far as we can, to reduce that preponderance of muscle over mind which was the characteristic of a milder era and a less complete civilization. As it has been found that as the refinement of mind increases the less the muscles of the body are trained, that which gave a man the greatest prominence in the civic game is now looked on as a criminal offence. I observe, however, that with a wise discrimination the Senate has confined the operation of this Bill to those who contest, not for a champion's wreath, not for a crown of honor, but for the reward of money. That being the case, I have no doubt this House will receive this Bill with the consideration which is due to every proposition which emanates from that body for which we have so much respect, and which we on the Conservative side of the House consider the balance wheel in the legislation of Parliament. I observe with great regret that there is a tendency in the Radical mind—if I may use that expression without offence—to under-estimate the influence and the advantage of that body. But when we find Bills like this emanating from that House, it shows that it is not the effete body which it is called by a Radical and an irreverent press, but that it is still mindful of its duties to the country, mindful of the great mission which has been confided to it, and that it is ever ready in the interest of public peace and public safety to elaborate and bring down an Act like this, in view of the occurrences which have taken place near Long Point, in the county of Norfolk, near the town of Simcoe. These scenes were not at all such as I hinted at. They were simply brutal contests, and I hope Parliament, in this discussion, will view the necessity of protecting the territory of Canada inviolate from the roughs and the rowdies of the neighboring country, who fancy that they can make raids on our territory when they like, and that we are not able to prevent them. They found their mistake when they made their descent on the county of Norfolk, and they will make a greater mistake if they make a similar attempt after this Bill becomes law, as I trust it will.

Mr. WRIGHT. I think we have to thank the patrician order for sending us down this Bill; I think we have also to thank the hon. Minister of Justice for introducing it; and I think this Legislature should do all in its power to prevent the recurrence of those brutalizing exhibitions against which it strikes. They are the survivals of a barbarous age, the relics of a bygone time, when cock-fighting, bull-baiting and bear-baiting were popular amusements, which are incompatible with the full light of the Nineteenth Century. The other night, when the hon. leader of the Opposition made that magnificent speech, which I am sure appealed to the hearts of everyone of us, in which he pointed out the differences between the legal systems of Quebec and those of Ontario, emanating in the one case from the Roman law and in the other from the English system, I think we all felt that that hon. gentleman did every justice to the theme. But a melancholy reflection has come across my own mind that this great system, costly and magnificent as it is, did not obtain the desired object; that, after all, this magnificent edifice did not give warmth, light and protection to a great number of our people, to whom it was only a magnificent mausoleum, a whitened sepulchre filled with dead men's bones; for what is the object of every legal system but the protection of life and property; and I ask every hon. gentleman in this House, recollecting the Biddulph tragedy which has recently been brought under our notice, whether our legal system is what it ought to be? I think this is a subject worthy the consideration of the

Mr. PLUMB.

Minister of Justice and the leader of the Opposition. After all, justice must underlie any great system: it must underlie every State constitution. The business of the State is to see that injustice is not only restrained, but punished. The only legal right any man has, is that of being protected in the peaceful exercise of his liberty. His first duty is to pay due regard to the liberties of others. I would ask this House and the country whether our legal system is that what it ought to be? I am sure the great majority of this House and of the people feel that the grand legal system of ours is intended; unhappily, more for a class than for the great body of the people—more for the lawyers than the laymen. I would leave this unpleasant theme, throwing out the remark to the hon. the Minister of Justice, which I trust will be considered by the legal element in this House—all gentlemen of great legal ability, and from whose deliberations I am sure good results will arise—that under our system, complicated and magnificent as it is, we feel, after all, there is less substantial justice obtained than in the rude tribunal of any mining camp in the Sierra Nevadas. I speak unhappily with too much knowledge of the circumstances of the case. The Bill, as I have said, is a most important one, and I have no doubt it will be sustained by the great body of the members of this House. As the special custodian of the rights and privileges of the House, we have especially to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the kindly and generous manner in which you afforded us great pleasure during the recent prize fight—or tournament, as we may more properly term it—on the floor of this House. We are aware that if a member who was not noble—if a common commoner had ventured to violate the rules and regulations of the House as did the knights on that occasion—he would have been threatened with all the pains and penalties of being named or having his words taken down, whatever they might be. But in that kindly courtesy which you have always manifested, you, after the fight was over and the knights had retired to their tents to bind up their wounds, said the whole discussion was irregular. We thank you for having adopted that kindly tone, and for not having put a stop to the joust, thus affording us the great pleasure of witnessing a pleasant and interesting contest. It reminded us of the great tournament at Ashby. The fierce Sir Richard, whom we may call the disinherited knight, from his having been disinherited by his constituents and forced to take refuge in the wilds of Huron, swept down on the Conservative champion opposite, who, armed in his panoply of proof and clothed in his robe of white sarsenet, emblematical of his purity of life, he successfully resisted the assault of his fierce opponent who, Protean like, changing his coat, appeared in the character of the knight of La Mancha, and attacked two windmills—windmills in this case driven by water. It was with much pleasure that we saw the stout knight of Westmoreland brace on his armour and proceed to viscerate his enemies. We felt that, representing as he did the Maritime nobility, a little element of a certain portion of the chivalric idiom of Billingsgate and "Wapping Old Stairs" was not inappropriate. It was with extreme pleasure we saw the two knights, Hospitaller and Templar, sharpening their lancet and scalpels, and proceeding to cut and anatomize their opponents in an eminently allopathic and scientific manner, according to the rules of Pharmacopœia. It would have afforded us extreme pleasure if the leader of the Opposition had been qualified by his rank to enter into the arena to engage in a contest with the leader of the Government. It would have been an epoch in the history of the legal profession, in fact the apotheosis of Gs. 8d. A recent French writer has painted a picture which for realistic power could hardly be excelled. The scene is laid under the very shadow of the Cathedral of Notre Dame, and by the side of the great River Seine, where a number of washerwomen are engaged in