

been written to the lay press on the same line. As to the first article the criticism at first blush seemed to have some merit, but an examination into the facts would seem to indicate that after all a wise discretion was probably exercised. As to the other article, lovers of their country will, we think, agree with us that the greatest care should be exercised by the press in matters of this sort. In the first place it should not be forgotten that judges cannot take up their pens to reply to attacks made upon them, nor is it possible for any one on their behalf, except in the most general way, to answer general charges.

Another important consideration and one which lies at the root of all good government, is that general charges such as those alluded to tend to weaken the administration of justice, and it is not desirable, especially so at this period of the world's history, to do or say anything which would tend in the slightest degree to disintegrate the fabric of society in this or in any other way by bringing into disrepute those who are appointed to administer justice and conserve law and order. We are menaced on all sides by the spirit of anarchy, which we see developing itself in varied forms and with increasing vitality. Self-preservation compels us to be careful not to give an opening to this enemy.

There is a clear distinction to be drawn between general charges and specific charges. It is within the province as well as it is the duty of public journals, and desirable in the public interest, that all defects in the administration of the law, and all slackness or impropriety on the part of its officers, should receive attention and be commented upon with a view to their cure or prevention. But this is manifestly a different thing from making general charges against the judiciary that its members are arbitrary, unreasonable, partial or careless, either in general or in reference to some particular class of the community.

Criticisms in reference to specific charges, we may remark, are being constantly made in England, but all respectable journals set their faces against, and decline to make attacks of a general character.