

verbal or reported in a newspaper, is contempt of Court how few would escape this penalty. The proposition is untenable upon the face of it. What judgment ever met with universal approval, or was not criticized from some point or other, and often in very strong language? What would become of our boasted freedom of speech? What indeed would become of our law if discussion upon points raised by the pronouncements of judges were to be stifled through fear of a commitment for contempt. The judge must be very thin-skinned, or have very little confidence in his own decisions, who pays attention to remarks such as are complained of in this instance, especially when coming through the version of a newspaper report.

But if judges are to be cautious in dealing with such matters it is the part of counsel to be careful how they indulge in criticisms, heedlessly or offensively. The judge cannot with proper regard to the dignity of his position defend himself; his hands are tied. Practitioners should be as anxious as the judges to maintain the dignity of the Bench and the reputation of the Court, and, above all, should not allow personal feeling to influence them in giving utterance to their opinions. And, lastly, all members of the profession, whether judges or practitioners, should remember what sometimes they are apt to forget, that their profession, like all other professions, was made for the public, and not the public for them. It is the interest of the public, that is of the country at large, which is really at stake in everything that concerns the purity of the Bench and the integrity of the Bar.

If the occurrence above referred to was, as it is said to have been, only one of others of an unpleasant character shewing strained relations between the barrister and the judge one cannot be altogether surprised at what took place, though we may deplore this. It is certainly most unfortunate that such matters should become public property; and here we may remark that the less the lay press is brought into the discussion of such matters the better. There are unfortunately some men in the profession who are only too willing to be interviewed by reporters who are anxious for personal items and careless of the evil that may result from their publication. Any attempt to remedy grievances between Bench and Bar in that way generally does more harm than good.