

government means the making and the application of the law, and all lawyers who properly understand and correlate their duties to their client, the public and themselves are ministers and agents of the law whether in their office practice or at the bar or on the bench. Even if they never take part in the making of the law as municipal, provincial or federal legislators, they are constantly exposing the defects of the law or its unsuitability and demonstrating the need of amendment or suggesting remedies, so that the courts and their officers the lawyers have been and are the occasion of national political development. Every legislative change in the law, every modification of political practice comes sooner or later under their scrutiny. Therefore the character of our lawyers, their mental attitude and their vision have much to do with the continuance of sane measures and the improvement of the law and the quick destruction of vicious or inapt legislation.

It used to be said of sympathetic courts that hard cases make bad law. Such judgments become precedents and unsettle the law and its application. Nowadays, some voter, aggrieved because he thinks an injustice has been done him by the application of a law, no matter how sound, loads up his legislative representative, who, under stimulus of votes, secures an Act to prevent a repetition of the imagined grievance. Such temperamental cases make still worse law. In times past the law was less susceptible to change. Antiquated law had to be endured till its harshness, becoming too severe, was mitigated by the Judges introducing fictions and equities. Now changes are dangerously empirical by reason of the easiness with which legislation can be secured, and the lack of comprehension in the legislator of the general principles of the law. To check this, members of the Bar should regard it as a duty to be in our law-making assemblies.

De Tocqueville, in his "Democracy of America" says: "In studying their laws, we perceive that the authority they have entrusted to members of the legal profession and the influence which these individuals exercise in the government is the most powerful existing security against the excesses