

towards the profession; second, the more important duty which lawyers, as members of the association, owe to and undertake to perform toward the public is, by way of revision and repeal of unwise, and improvident and obsolete laws, through appropriate legislation; the prevention of ill-considered, hasty, careless and vicious legislation so far as practicable under existing conditions, and the exercise of care and watchfulness over the administration of law by duly constituted tribunals.—Extract from an address to the Pa. Bar Association.—On the Purpose of Bar Association.

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THE term of office of the present Benchers of the Law Society of Upper Canada expires at the close of Easter term, 1896. The next election of Benchers will take place on Thursday April 6th, 1896. The Benchers are thirty in number and are chosen by ballot by members of the Bar of Ontario for a term of five years. Vacancies during the term are filled by the remaining Benchers. The Treasurer is President of the Society and is elected annually, on the first day of Easter term. Two well known Toronto firms contain 6 Benchers, or one-sixth of the elected number. We expect to see some new men elected in the next contest. The result of the election will no doubt be watched with interest by the profession.

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THE young lawyer who reads what Mr. Greenleaf says about cross-examination in eliciting the truth and confounding the false witness, braces

himself for the contest and plunges with vigour into the cross-examination. He makes the witness retrace all the ground he has gone over, so as to catch him in slight variations. He thrusts at him unimportant papers and asks him to explain trifling inconsistencies. He tries the witness's temper and tries his own, gets both the witness and himself into a perspiration, and finishes his storm of chops and tomato sauce with the consciousness, if he be a pretty shrewd fellow, that he has made the witness' story more emphatic, emphasized the point in it which hurt most, and altogether done his side of the case about as much damage as if he had himself introduced two or three additional adverse witnesses. The old practitioner, who has been there before, asks the witness a few unimportant questions, confining himself as nearly as he decently can to drawing out the witness' opinion on the weather and state of the crops, and finishes with the pleasing thought that he has disappointed his adversary, who expected the cross-examination of that witness to bring out a number of matters about which the witness could not be asked in chief. Cross-examination is a great thing, and, if employed in the proper place and with the proper witness, is productive of excellent results. The fundamental and most important canon, however, in the science of cross-examination is: Do not cross-examine the wrong witness.—*West Virginia Bar.*

DURING the next year, we presume, steps will be inaugurated for the decennial revision of the statutes of