

them, and in the press of business, especially in inferior Courts, he may succeed in gaining his point by his very recklessness and tenacity : or at all events he is secure against severe remark from the Profession. His assertions may provoke a passing notice, but in a short time they are forgotten, perhaps even by himself, and the consciousness of this very oblivion but emboldens him the more to advance doubtful points, or at least those which he has but partially weighed.

If no general publicity be given to the decisions of our Courts of Justice, one great guarantee for faithful and laborious effort on the part of the Judges, in the examination and decision of doubtful questions, is at once withdrawn ; and, practically speaking, every member of the Profession knows that in Lower Canada this publicity has not as yet been attained. Our Court Rooms are indeed open to the public, and both the public and the Profession hear, and will naturally, and according to their ability, canvass and decide upon the Judgments rendered in particular cases by particular Judges or particular Courts, and in this way the guarantee alluded to may, to a certain extent, be preserved ; although with much more difficulty, and in a less degree, than under different circumstances. But, with the certainty that full and accurate Reports would be given of all Judgments of importance, every Judge and every Court would know and feel, that his and its public standing and reputation demanded the exercise of integrity, talent, industry and research. Under such circumstances the Profession would not be amused, and the public edified, with long and well written addresses on public morals, in the shape of Judgments, or grave discussions on points of Law almost as well settled as any of the propositions of Euclid. Nor would a pompous display of indiscriminate and ill-discerning industry any longer heap up masses of great names and authorities, as if to beat down all opposition ; or subtle men, with judgments sharpened till they are too fine-edged to be useful, peer into the minutæ of cases, and with perverse ingenuity bring into the light the failings of some unhappy Bailiff's return, or an error in a date or a proper name. Reports faithfully given would tend to remedy these evils in some respects, with many others of which Judges, may perhaps now be ignorant, but which, when displayed in plain type, would become apparent.

But the main influence on the Bench, of Reports, would be of a more positive nature, and such as is far more pleasant to point out. The Judge, whether rendering the decision of the Court, or expressing his dissent from it, would know that his opinion and the grounds of it would be fairly laid before the Profession and the public. He would feel the importance of using his best efforts in disposing of a cause which, when decided, would no longer be of interest only to the parties and Advocates actually engaged in it, but which might tend to settle a doubtful, or clear up an obscure principle of im-