

will be harmful. We are told that when the Ptolemaic system of astronomy was explained to a certain King of Spain—

the sphere
With centric and eccentric scribbled o'er
Cycle and epicycle, orb in orb—

he said that if the Almighty had consulted him before creating the universe he could have given Him some useful hints. But even that King did not suppose that he could change any of the order of the universe.

Nor are the laws of nature the subject of politics. When the man of science finds that potassium permanganate with sulphuric acid produces oxygen and he wants hydrogen, he does not form a Society for the Protection of Hydrogen and make it an issue at the next election. All the voters in the world cannot change the formula:

$2 \text{ K Mn O}_4 + 3 \text{ H}_2 \text{ SO}_4 = \text{K}_2 \text{ SO}_4 + 2 \text{ Mn SO}_4 + 3 \text{ H}_2 \text{ O} + 5 \text{ O}$.
and all the King's horses and all the King's men will not get free hydrogen from these re-agents. (I suppose I am hopelessly archaic in my nomenclature, but that was good chemistry forty years ago, when I took my degree of B.Sc.)⁵

The lawyer, Judge or otherwise (it is not well to draw too subtle distinctions) investigating a case tries to find the law applicable. He will delve into statutes, decisions, text writers' dicta, endeavor by all means and with all industry to determine what is the precise state of the law.

Often, like the scientist, he may fail; but, unlike the scientist, he cannot experiment and find out. He is in the position of a chemist without apparatus, who must do the best he can by analogy and reasoning with generally a good deal of conjecture added.

But assume that he has found it; it would be silly for him to fight against it in his particular case; it is not made by Judges at the present day and they cannot change it.

So far, the doctor and the lawyer are on the same plane; but now there is a difference. A law of nature is not made by man and cannot be altered by man; a "law" in the sense in which the word is used in the Courts is purely man-made and can be altered by the same power which made it.

If anyone, doctor, lawyer, tinker, tailor, soldier, sailor, is not satisfied with the law as already laid down, it is his right to try

⁵ While there were some with the degree of B.A.Sc. before 1876, I think I was the first to receive the degree of B.Sc. from a Canadian university (Victoria University, 1876).