

Convocation, however, has very wisely determined that the other universities shall be consulted before the matter is finally disposed of; and no doubt such amendments will be made as will enable all the universities in the Province to avail themselves, if they so desire, of a federation with the Law Society for the objects in view. That, however, is a question in which the universities are more interested than the legal profession. What the latter must be assured of before the scheme receives their endorsement, is that it will really afford an improvement in the character of legal education. When we compare the scanty course of lectures provided by our Society with the well-equipped law schools existing in many of the neighbouring states, and even in some of the smaller provinces of Canada, it must be admitted that we are not keeping pace with the age, or giving our students the same educational advantages as are enjoyed elsewhere. I wish, therefore, to record my sympathy with the movement in the direction of reform, while regretting that I cannot approve of the present recommendations. The following, among other objections, suggest themselves:—

1. The scheme entirely destroys the incentive which has hitherto existed to men taking the arts course in a university, before entering upon the technical study of law. Hitherto, a graduate in arts has been allowed to shorten the prescribed period of preparation for the bar by two years. Under the proposed change, which offers a student in four years an university degree in law, with all the incidental advantages of an arts degree, and makes him at the same time a barrister and solicitor, it is extremely improbable that many will devote three years to graduating in arts, three more to becoming entitled to practice, and have to take a still further course to attain a degree in law. There are but few, I think, who deny that a course in arts is highly desirable for those intending to enter the legal profession. A large proportion of the barristers who, of late years, have attained to positions on the bench, both in England and this country, are distinguished graduates of their universities, and no more notable example of the satisfactory result of such a training can be given than that afforded by the learned and scholarly judge who signs the report of the committee. The desirability of the general adoption of the course of study, which has produced such men as the Chancellor of Ontario, has been time and again advocated in eloquent speeches, delivered on educational and scholastic occasions, by the great lawyer, who is the head both of his profession and university, and I do not believe any of the committee will advocate a deviation from his advice.

2. It is true that the scheme (section 17) provides that nothing therein contained is intended to interfere with the existing regulations for call, and that, therefore, the bachelor of arts will still be able to become a barrister-at-law after three years' study. This is very much like providing dinner for the victim to whom you have administered an effectual poison. If, however, any of this class of law students should survive the premium offered for his extinction, he will be deprived of the opportunity for legal instruction, which he enjoys under the present regulations. In common with all other students, he has now the benefit of a complete course of lectures for three years of study, but, under the proposed scheme, he will have to content himself with the incomplete course of two years,