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THE PREVALENCE OF PERJURY.

"While thousands, careless of the damning sin,
Kiss the Book's outside, who ne'er look'd within."

—*Cooper.*

In a recent address to a grand jury in Ontario, Mr. Justice Mabee said: "There is undoubtedly a great deal of perjury in our Courts of law. I mean wilfully false statements. If there is any way of preventing the evil there will be a much better administration of justice than now."

The prevalence of perjury in civil and criminal cases has also been the subject of comment by judges and Crown prosecutors in other Provinces of Canada. In the United States perjury seems to be alarmingly on the increase. Not long ago the President of a Bar Association in that country, after declaring that perjury was increasing, quoted communications from judges in various States of the Union in support of his statement. He also said: "In short, with reference to the prevalence of perjury, the time has come when, in the words of another, justice must wear a veil, not that she may be impartial, but that she may hide her face for shame. Some tell us that the crime is committed mostly in the police and petty Courts, where as a rule the witnesses belong to the vicious classes. But the fact remains that it is committed in other Courts and by men professing high station in society, church and state."

While such strong language could not fairly be applied to conditions in Canada, it is nevertheless apparent that even here some better provision is required to suppress the evil, by facilitating the punishment of persons guilty of perjury. Our Code has improved the law on this subject by abolishing some technicalities, which previously caused confusion and doubt, and some-