

of candidates, one half of whom, no doubt, by the force of things, were unripe. They were of course mostly rejected, and as their number was unusually great the outcry was proportionately loud. Among the victims a great number, indeed I may say the majority, held University degrees, and two or three were prizemen or as they are known at Laval "licentiates with distinction." This latter circumstance no doubt was a painful one to the Faculties and it may have caused their members, as well as some of the general public, to think that there was something wrong about the Bar examinations.

In point of fact there had been nothing wrong about them, so far from that, the Board had by extraordinary energy and industry done the double of their accustomed work as efficiently as ever. The whole cause of the trouble, was the improvident and hasty action of the Legislature in amending the Bar charter (with the levity with which they deal with the municipal code). I can see nothing to respect in the opinion by which it was influenced, and so far from admitting that there is any force in the arguments in support of it, I have not been able to find out what those arguments are. The only reason urged by the supporters of the bill before the committee on legislation was that it restored a pre-existing state of things, and that it was desired unanimously by the students and by a number of members of the Bar.

The dissatisfaction at the result of the recent examinations was not shared in by the Bar. On the contrary, at a meeting held in Montreal section, the action of the Board of Examiners was endorsed and approved of. The Quebec section asked for explanations, but took no further action condemnatory or otherwise. No other opportunity has been afforded the Bar as a body to express its opinion on the subject.

At a meeting of this council held in Quebec on the 6th of December last, the following took place, as appears by the minutes :

"The Secretary draws the attention of the council to a rumour current in the press that Law Students or some other persons are endeavouring to obtain from the Legislature a bill to change the mode of admission to the Bar by taking from that body the power of examining candidates, as to learning, and giving it to the Universities.

"It is moved by Mr. Methot, seconded by Mr. Dunlop, that this council strenuously protests against any attempt to interfere with the rights, immunities and privileges of the Bar :

"That the power of selection of its members to the exclusion of all others is essential to the existence of the Bar and was conferred upon it in the public interest, to insure the exercise of the functions of advocate by those only who are fit and worthy ;

"That no change in the manner of making such selection provided by the existing law is desirable and, should the occasion arise, it will be demanded by this council in the name of the profession and not left to strangers, still less to those who, as regards the Bar, are *in statu pupillari* ;

"That the Bâtonnier général, the Secretary treasurer and all the members of this council who are or will be in Quebec during this session of the Legislature be specially requested and authorized to do all in their power with the government and members to prevent the carrying of any measure in the direction above mentioned."

In consequence of this resolution, I had the honour to appear before the committee of the Legislature at the last session to which the bill therein mentioned had been referred, the object of which was to bring about very much the mode of examination commended in the majority report. This committee was composed among others of the leading lawyers in the House. The question of the examinations was fully discussed with the result that the committee reported against the bill and it was dropped.