

victim to go through two or three courts before ascertaining what his rights are.

Not only does the substantive law invite the efforts of the reformer, but also the law of procedure. Many a suitor is deterred from pressing his claim in a sister province by the unfamiliar terms and methods employed in another forum than his own. Here, at least, we should not be hampered by the traditions of the past, for archaic forms and practices are survivals of a period when the rights of the litigants were too often lost sight of in the intricacies of procedure. Procedure should be the obedient handmaiden and not the arrogant mistress of substantive law. Some of our provinces have made greater strides than others in their emancipation from rigid and technical forms of practice, and nothing but good would result from an attempt to assimilate the different systems.

The subjects which I have selected for your consideration do not by any means exhaust the list of those which might be suggested. They are merely given by way of illustration, and my purpose has been attained if I have succeeded in convincing you of the possibility and desirability of nationalizing our jurisprudence.

You will not fail to bear in mind that the method suggested for realizing this object has nothing compulsory about it. It is founded upon the firm belief that persuasion is more potent than force in welding together communities. Much as we resent being dragooned into uniformity, we can hardly be so unreasonable as to refuse to give an attentive and sympathetic hearing to those who think that there is a great deal of good that we can learn from one another—much to borrow from every system and a great deal to discard in all.

It has indeed been contended by some writers that variety is desirable in a confederation, because it enables the component states to indulge in experiments which may prove instructive and useful to the whole country. The experience of the American Commonwealth is that in the field of law there has been too much experimentation at the expense of the litigant, and that so far from tending to the selection of the fittest