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At the beginning of these lectures, the eloquent magistrate, Hon. Judge A. B. Routhier, whom we always enjoy hearing, made a statement I recollect; he said his position was very much changed, "Generally," he added, "when I ascend the Bench it is to condemn someone, and often to fulfil a painful or disagreeable duty. To-night, however, it is with a light heart that I ascend, because I came to fulfil a most pleasant task; I have only congratulations to offer."

My position at present is much more perilous than that of the learned Judge. It is, in fact, the first time I ascend the Bench, and you may be assured that, contrary to "Dandin," it is not the inordinate desire to judge that brings me here. On the contrary, I regretted for a moment the rash promise I made to give a lecture. It seemed to me as if I were going to the scaffold as I walked up the steps. My head was in a whirl when I saw how the positions were reversed; the Judges at the foot of the Bench, and I on this formidable height. Far from me the thought of wishing to revive that infamous calumny, invented by I do not know whom, which tried to impress one that a great many men lost their heads on ascending the Bench. I regret with all my heart this villanous assertion.

Without praising myself beyond measure, I may say I have very often gained my cases, though sometimes bad ones; but alas! how often have I not lost, and such excellent ones, according to my mind. I was then obliged to console my clients, which very often was more difficult than losing the case itself. They soon found out that lawyers carry many schemes and excuses in their bags. I discovered an infallible method, which I recommend to all young lawyers; it is to join those poor wretches who fail in pleading and find fault with the Judge who rejects your petition. It is well understood that forty-eight hours is the time allotted for this fault finding, and I am sure that the task is conscientiously fulfilled. This privilege is not seen anywhere in the law books, but it has become such a custom that it has never occurred to anyone to contest it. Lawyers identify themselves so much with the case of their client, that often they are obliged to join them in saying something bad about the Judge. I myself have on my conscience several of these small sins, but I think by the confession I make of them