

THE question was recently asked of the Government in the House of Commons as to whether the title of Q.C. is conferred upon advocates in the district of Quebec in view of their merits or professional success, or in consideration of political services. The Minister of Justice replied that the title was conferred in view of professional merit and he was not informed of the politics of the recipients, and that it was the intention to confer the title in the manner most equitable and in the best interest of the profession. We are convinced that Sir John Thompson is perfectly sincere in his utterance, and that he desires to act, and, so far as he has been a free agent, has acted in good faith in this matter. As to how the title has been conferred in Quebec, we are not in a position to judge; but if he includes the Province of Ontario, and if he is responsible for those who have been appointed in recent years, we are compelled to say that he has in many cases been grossly deceived by those who have brought names before him or recommended them to him. It is notorious that many of the appointments which have been made in this province were of men who not only had no professional merit, but some of whom were hardly professionally respectable: some never appeared in court, never were engaged in an important case, and were unknown to their brethren or the public except as political hacks, and of some the less said the better. What was once an honorable distinction has now become a professional joke. When Sir John Thompson knows the Ontario Bar as well as we do who live here, he will recognize the truth of what we say. We trust that the vicious system which the leaders of the political parties have countenanced so long (but for which the country does not hold the present Minister of Justice responsible), and which has brought such discredit upon the Dominion, is soon to receive its death blow: at least, the present disclosures at the capital have, we apprehend, disgusted the public as much as the distribution of silk has disgusted the profession. We regret to have to say it, but history will say that the late Premier did not exercise the supervision he should have done in this matter.

It is said that we must go abroad to learn what is happening at home; for example in the *Green Bag*, of Boston, for last month (a periodical which gives *itself* the title of being a "useless but entertaining magazine for lawyers"), we have an interesting account of the Law School of Osgoode Hall, Toronto, by our old friend, D. B. Read, Q.C.

He begins at the beginning, taking us back to the meeting of the Law Society in the town of Newark on 17th July, 1797, where it was resolved, "That the two Crown Officers be nominated Benchers of the Law Society, together with four Senior Barristers, and that the Benchers, according to seniority, take upon themselves the Treasurership of the said Society annually."

The first thought of a Law School seems to have been in the year 1822. A voluntary association called the Advocates' Society was formed, made up of barristers and students, who, in imitation of the Law Society, elected one of their number to be Bencher, with other officers. We are told that there was a book kept of their proceedings which has been preserved and presented to the Law Society by Sir Adam Wilson, in which it is recorded that this Advocates'