

curing this short piece of legislation, and the subsequent permission of the Law Society to her entry as a student. Even yet the field is not entirely open. The statute does not allow a woman to enter the inner circle and become a Barrister-at-law, nor to penetrate the innermost sanctum sanctorum and occupy a seat among the judiciary. These are however, but additional steps, and will doubtless be taken shortly. Practically the profession of law may be regarded in Ontario as being open to women. Sometimes, though, certain things are lawful which are not expedient. But as the woman who studies law is an individual with a mind and ambitions of her own, and as she is the most interested in her future success or failure, it will occur to most people that she might safely be left to judge of the expediency for herself.

There does not seem any danger that our domestic economy will be overturned by wives and sisters flocking as a body into law. A profession already overcrowded is not likely to prove attractive to many women. Besides, they are not strangers to the practice of law. The number of women practitioners in the United States is very small. In Canada there is but one woman as yet pursuing the study.

It is a good many years—about three thousand—since Deborah, the wife of Lapidoth, judged Israel, and moreover delivered them from the bondage of the people of Canaan. Women seem to have acted as counsel in Athens, in Rome, and in the early European States. But “the unruly member” proved uncontrollable. The “Eve” who brought on her sex deprivation of the privilege of acting as barristers-at-law was one Calphurnia, a Roman virago apparently. She, by “excess of boldness” and “by making the tribunals resound with howlings uncommon to the forum” occasioned the passing of the Lex. i. Sec. 5. Dig. iii, (1) whereby after reciting that the act rested solely on the conduct of Calphurnia, it was enacted that she should cease to plead in the courts of Rome. Apparently she was not the only offender, and shortly afterwards the statute was extended to exclude all women.

As the study of the Canon law permeated Europe, the wisdom of this enactment seems to have impressed other countries, and the profession was lost to women, or perhaps it might better be said that women were lost to the profession.

At the present day the wheels of apparent progress have reached a point where the second Calphurnia is to have a chance to redeem the lost position. Let us hope she will never again be deserving of the