

published Rede lecture on "English Law and the Renaissance," deals at length with the proposed abolition of the Common Law in the reign of Henry VIII. Had such a judicial revolution been effected the political genius of the English people would have lost much of what constitutes its aggressively distinctive type to-day, and that loss would, perhaps, have been deplorable; but that the adoption of the Civil Law, as a whole, would have denationalized the race we do not for a moment believe. We think that in the process of attrition between a rule of law born of the experience of Roman civilization and an antagonism thereto inhering in some Anglo-Saxon jurial concept, it would be the former that would suffer. Is that not true of the Civil Law everywhere? Again, the Civil Law is the foundation of the legal systems of both Germany and France: Have they not preserved their distinctive racial qualities notwithstanding this common origin of their laws?

---

We are glad to know that an Act was passed at the late session of the Ontario Legislature legalizing the Scotch form of oath to which attention was drawn in a recent issue of this Journal. We trust that the form of oath thus authorized may be generally adopted, and that it may be administered with due reverence. Arrangements ought at once to be made by the Government to have it printed on card-board in good large type, and copies sent to every Court official authorized to administer oaths. The intention is, we presume, that the witness shall himself utter the prescribed words and not merely assent thereto when spoken by the officer. In Scotch Courts it is we believe the custom for the judges and the counsel to rise and remain standing while a witness is sworn. This adds to the solemnity; but it is perhaps too much to expect that such a practice should be followed in a country where solemnity and reverence are somewhat at a discount with very large sections of the community, although perhaps on that very account it is all the more necessary that the spirit of reverence for sacred things should be cultivated amongst us.