

been done away with, and the abstruse science of pleading has given way to a simpler and more reasonable method of arriving at the issues. The jurisdiction of the lower courts has been enlarged so as to bring the means of obtaining justice within easy reach of all. Economy and simplicity has been aimed at, and largely attained, and the process has been continually going on. We may claim, therefore, that from the legal standpoint the reign of Queen Victoria has been one of progress, and of progress always tending to the benefit, not of any privileged few, but of the great mass of her subjects. Justice has been more than ever tempered with mercy. Reform rather than punishment has been the object of all the changes in our criminal law, and the prevention of crime by removing the source of temptation rather than the infliction of penalties when it has been committed.

Space will not permit us to even attempt to deal with many other important matters. We might enlarge upon the growth of the constitutional law, and dilate upon the progress that has been made in regard to the liberty of the subject. We might refer to the Imperial Parliament rolls, which reveal such progressive measures as those for the repeal of the last vestiges of intolerance against Roman Catholics; the admission of Jews to Parliament; the abolition of University tests; the Reform Act, of 1867; the disestablishment of the Irish Church; The British North America Act, 1867; and the Australian Commonwealth Act, of 1900; the two last enactments meaning more for the maintenance and continuity of the Empire than anything that the British parliament has done since the passage of the Act of Settlement in 1700-01.

In our grief at the loss of our Queen, we have consolation in the remembrance of all that we have gained during her long reign, as well as the just expectation that in her successor we may hope to see continued the progress which has produced so much benefit to all classes of the community, and to none more than to the profession in whose interests we are specially concerned.

We would now turn for a moment to point out in the briefest possible way the more important constitutional effects in Canada of the Crown's demise.

Firstly: The demise of the Crown does not dissolve the parliament of Canada, nor the Legislature of Ontario. (See 31 Vict., c. 22, s. 1; R.S.C. c. 11, s. 1; R.S.O. (1897) c. 12, s. 2.) The same is true of the legislatures of Quebec (R.S.Q. Tit. II, s. 78); Nova Scotia (R.S.N.S. 5th ser., c. 3, s. 9); New Brunswick (Con. St. N.B. c. 5, s. 80); P. E. Island (4 Will. IV., c. 12, s. 1); British Columbia