

publications is due much of the influence and social standing of the legal profession in Canada. For it is suggestive of unity of thought and community of interest, and is emblematic of a sure and enlightened method of directing action to its ulterior design—success. It is the type of progress, the soul and centre of organization, the offspring of a common interest, and may be compared to an itinerant preacher, from whose lips nought is heard but the doctrines of his class. At home it is the promoter of harmony, the disseminator of practical, useful knowledge, and the refiner of manners; and under its protecting aegis all its votaries find peace and prosperity. Nor is the 'Medical Journal' less important, less useful to its class.

It is a trite old saying, as well as a recognized and orthodox principle in social ethics, that "a man's affairs are best managed by himself"; and this principle, whether applied to individuals, classes, professions, states or communities, holds equally good. Indeed, it underlies the whole social fabric. Now, by a parity of reasoning, work done by deputy, (i.e.) by one having no interest in common with him whom he serves, is likely, nay sure, in the case of states or classes, to be *ill done*. The latter is the position of surveyors as a class in this country; and is best exemplified by contrast with other learned professions.

The law society, for example, are vested with ample corporate powers for the management of all matters of a professional character. They enact by-laws for the regulation of their tariffs, for the admission of members into their body. The control and management of their own affairs are in their own hands, they are the custodians of their own destiny—they are masters in their own house. There are many preferments exclusively set apart for them, and to which none other is eligible. The medical faculty have also similar privileges.

How different with surveyors. For, tho' the law imposes on them heavy burthens—tho' they must follow a long course of preparatory study in the most difficult, as well as the most exalted of all the sciences—mathematics—tho' they must undergo the expense of a preliminary examination—tho' they must serve a long apprenticeship—tho' they must pass thro' the ordeal of a final examination as a test of their theoretical and practical competency—tho' they must in conjunction with two securities enter into heavy recognizances with the state as a guarantee for the due and faithful performance of their professional duties—tho' before they can make the first move in the direction of earning, they must be provided with costly apparatus, consisting of field and office in-

struments, books, &c., which at a moderate estimate will cost \$400—tho' their avocation is at once the most toilsome and perilous of any class of our people—tho' at a comparatively early age, from the hardships, fatigues, privations and exposure incident to their calling, they are incapacitated from service—tho' they brave alike in summer and winter the rigour and inclemency of our variable climate—tho' lodged in a cotton tent when the mercury is frozen in the thermometer—tho' doomed to pass much of their time in the society of the very dregs of the population—tho' they have to undergo all the burthens and hardships we have enumerated, and twice as many untold, what do they receive in return? What reward for their toils? What succour in those days when they become unfit for service? Whilst the lawyer, the doctor and the notary are amply and properly recompensed for their services, the poor surveyor receives a paltry four (\$4) dollars per *diem*; and this not very unfrequently for very few of the 365. How is it that of all the learned professions, that of the surveyor is the most expensive and difficult to attain; and when acquired the most laborious and the worst remunerated?

To these important questions we can give but one reply, which is, that all this arises from the fact that surveyors have no voice in the management of their professional affairs; and foreign management is well compared to a "stepmother's breath." The merchant, the mechanic, the farmer or the laborer has as much control in the conduct of the affairs which govern surveyors as they have themselves. This, we think, is an anomaly—an evil which requires only to be exposed to be remedied.

For we cannot believe that the public require any sacrifices from surveyors any more than from any other class of the population. We are satisfied that they (the public) are as ready to recompense our class—to give them a fair value for their labor, as they are to the lawyer, the doctor or the notary. We are sure, as it is deemed necessary to the general interest to lay restrictions on surveyors and refuse them admittance except on certain onerous conditions, the public are willing to accord them protection and privileges commensurate with the obligations they impose; and if such immunities have not hitherto been conceded, it is entirely owing to the indifference of the surveyors as a class. For there is but one practical way known to our institutions for redressing grievances, and that is, to ask, to agitate, to appeal, to remonstrate. If a man fell into a pit, from which his own unaided efforts could not extricate him, would he not immediately have recourse to