

In the past generation or two the American bar has undergone a significant change. The judicial office has suffered from encroachments but private practice has become more and more lucrative. The bar has in a measure divided between those who could afford to accept the uncertainties of the judicial position and those who scorn public service. In Ontario judicial tenure is for life and the salary is such that practically no lawyer in the Province could afford, from a mere pecuniary standpoint, to refuse to commute his probable earnings at the bar for a life salary of \$8,000 on the bench of the High Court of Justice. Even county judges are paid more than the justices of supreme courts in certain American states in which perverted democratic ideals have been most rampant.

The one central feature of the Ontario judicial establishment by which we can profit most readily is its unification. It was not always so. Of course Ontario never went as far as England, where at one time there were four score separate courts, and it was easy and natural to copy England's great unification of 1873. The change reached Ontario in 1881 when her various tribunals were amalgamated in the Supreme Court of Judicature. This court has the fullest jurisdiction, both as to trials and appeals.

When one comes to think of it he realises that the sole purpose of advocacy is to see that no fact and no point of law is overlooked. It should be the court's prerogative to see that neither side oversteps ethical boundaries. Judges who have nothing to fear from counsel or clients do this unfailingly. The thing which will most strike you as peculiar when you attend your first trial in Ontario is the utter informality in examining witnesses. Let me quote Mr. Justice Riddell who said the following to the New York Bar Association in 1912:—

"We do not have much bother about admission or rejection of evidence in our courts; unless we can see that the exclusion of evidence or the admission of evidence has led to some injustice, then we pass it by. Matters of law as a rule are the determining factors in the appellate court; although there are occa-