

when rest is needed, to obtain a position worthy of honourable ambition, to retain it so long as one's health and energies will permit, and so to work from year to year in the almost certain hope of independence.

"It may be said that these views are selfish. No doubt they are so. But the law of self is a fundamental law of nature. The man who affects to disregard this natural law is as surely punished as the man who violates human law. An empty pocket and broken health are too often the penalties of faithfully serving the public, to the neglect of one's immediate interests.

"There are, in almost every constituency, some men who can serve the public with less inconvenience to themselves than others. Men who, by reason of large fortune, are independent of the sheriff, may safely do so. Men who have nothing to lose, and so nothing for the sheriff, may also do so. But the middle man, who has something to lose, and is desirous of increasing that something for the sake of his family, has everything to lose and little to gain. What is the gain? Perhaps after years of toil a position in the Government, a position which enables the malignant to attack with greater malignity, a position which demands of the sufferer unwearied exertions for less pay than the salary of a bank manager or the income of a second-class lawyer. And yet men are found, election after election, to summon caucuses, to attend conventions, to accept nominations, to address public meetings, to be slandered by one political party for enlisting under the banner of the other political party, to banish themselves from house and home, and yearly to imprison themselves for two or three months at hard labour within the walls of a House of Parliament. It is well that there should be such men. Selfishness is, I admit, a low spring of action; ambition is a more popular one. Some men are vain of distinctions. The ability to write M.P. after one's name, or to have the prefix of "Honourable" is, by some, deemed worthy of all the sacrifices which I have detailed. I have counted the cost, and am no longer prepared to continue the sacrifice. If ambition alone were the object of my life I would, perhaps, continue in public life. But one, in flights of ambition, is frequently reminded that humanity needs sustenance, and that other calls, if not so lofty, are not, on that account, to be despised."

We may here *en passant* quote an observation on the above remarks of Mr. Harrison by Mr. Goldwin Smith, in the *Canadian Monthly*, when speaking of the demoralizing tendency of political struggles:—

"The parting address of Mr. Harrison, of course, afforded a butt for the arrows of small

wit. Yet, amidst the torrent of electioneering trash, it was, perhaps, the one thing worthy of a moment's remembrance. We shall find that it is necessary to make public life tolerable to sense and self-respect, or to pay for their exclusion."

Of course, there are prominent men, leaders of political parties, who will be found ready, though not willing, to sacrifice their own ease and comfort on the call of patriotism or ambition, but these are so few as to form the exception; and whilst we honour these for their patriotism, or pity those for their ambition, we can scarcely wonder that so few of those who have taken a first place at the Bar, think it worth their while to venture on the stormy sea of politics.

SURROGATE COURT ADVERTISEMENTS.

In the palmy days of Chancery practice, administration suits were considered fair game for the profession. One of the English Vice-Chancellors, who loved his joke, was wont to say when pronouncing judgment on applications of this kind, "Let the usual order go for the destruction of the estate according to due course." But now-a-days, "*Nous avons changé tout cela.*" Yet still a strict eye has to be kept upon all matters pertaining to the estates of deceased persons. Very often there is no one who has a personal interest in keeping down the expenditure connected with the adjustment of such estates.

Our attention has been lately called to a quite unnecessary outlay for disbursements in publishing advertisements of the Surrogate Courts for next-of-kin and the like, prior to grant of administration. Take, for instance, cases arising under the 35th section of the Act, C. S. U. C. cap. 16, where a citation or summons is published pursuant to the 26th Rule of Court. It is true that this rule requires the judge to direct by special order in what papers the citation or summons is to appear by way of advertisement, but neither statute nor rule of court requires that both the order and the citation should be published, as is almost invariably done. There is no propriety in publishing—no necessity to publish the order: all that is accomplished by so doing is to double the length and the expense of the advertisement. The order is intended, not for the information of the persons cited, but for the guidance of the officers of the court and the solicitors in charge of the business.