

illegal conduct in the future." It is scarcely necessary to say that the authorities in Ottawa have nothing to do with the matter, and it is trite learning that if a judge "is assaulted, libelled or abused within what may fairly be called the precincts of his court, this is a contempt, and the judge may summarily order the arrest of the person committing the contempt." It is true that this power is seldom exercised, and the books say that it is better for a judge to proceed in the usual way by attachment, but, until your article was written, no legal journal or authority had ever called in question a judge's power to protect himself from insult in the precincts of his court.

Had your article appeared in any other than a legal journal, I would not write this note, as the public know how prone reporters are to colour incidents to make sprightly paragraphs, but in a legal journal the members of the profession expect a fair discussion of their conduct if any comment upon it is considered necessary.

AN OFFICER OF THE COURT.

Halifax.

[We have pleasure in publishing the above letter, and shall be glad to give reasonable space to any other explanation or statement of facts submitted either by Judge Meagher or his friends. What appeared in this journal was published in good faith and without any desire to injure the Judge; we having, as we conceived, a duty in the premises. If the facts are true, as submitted to this journal, the right of comment certainly existed, and we did not seek to go beyond such right. If by any mistake or incorrectness of fact we have done Judge Meagher an injustice, we shall be only too glad to set the matter right, and every opportunity will be given in these columns to have the truth appear before the public.]