

most interesting history is now offered. We think all who can possibly do so should take this elective. The readiness with which the opportunity has already been grasped by a large number of students shows that this branch has come to stay.

WE are forcibly reminded in noticing the present situations of many of our graduates that a very large number of students look to law as their life profession. We cannot but raise our voice against this growing tendency. The law seems an easy, genteel way of making a living. It brings its followers before the public notice and there is always glimmering ahead of the young barrister the *ignis fatuus* of fame—judicial or political distinction. But consider the present state of the profession. It is plain fact that there are now more than twice the number of so-called lawyers requisite to transact all legitimate legal business. In every country village are half a dozen youths whose ambition is to be a great lawyer, and who, after hanging around an office for a couple of years, are admitted to practice. Every academy, college and university is full of future lawyers. All cannot live from practicing law. They must ring the changes of real estate, insurance, collections—every form of private speculation.

A lawyer can be as honest and upright as can a man in any other occupation. But he is subjected to peculiar temptations. In perhaps no other calling can trickery, dishonesty and unscrupulousness gain so much with so little risk, for all is excused under the head of professional sharpness. It is not strange that many have not the moral courage to resist such temptations. Many a young man who started with the brightest hopes in the practice of his chosen profession has made, at least in the eyes of his Maker, a failure of life. He may be respected by the world, looked up to by his fellow attorneys, but he is a moral wreck and, "what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

Though the attorney speaks of the nobility of his profession, it is nevertheless a fact that in a peaceful, law-abiding community there is small use for the lawyer. His business arises from the contentions and crimes of his fellows. Without wrong there is no need of lawyers. And unless a man goes conscientiously to work to right this wrong he is of necessity hurt by the contact with it. The attorney has often splendid opportunities to act as peacemaker if he is honest enough to prefer the good of others to his own material welfare. But, struggling as he is for daily bread, what wonder that instead of healing wounds and reuniting friends, he adds fuel to the flame and sets man against man when by so doing he can fill his own pocket?

There would be no scarcity of lawyers if for the next five years no one started into the profession. By helping to over supply the demand you perhaps increase the moral danger to every other member of the bar, increase quarrels and crime, for the greater the number and ability of criminal lawyers the less chance for the lawbreaker that he will have to suffer the penalty for his offense, and put yourself in a position where it will be most easy to drift into the blackest rascality.

Don't be a lawyer. Study law if you will for your own amusement or instruction, but don't practice it. There are callings just as honorable, though not so alluring, which are not crowded. Do not try to push and elbow your way along paths where far better men than you have fallen.

On the 5th of October the republican convention meets in this city and the part of its work which directly concerns us is the nomination of two regents to fill the places of Regents Holmes and Hyatt. On the selections made the future of the U. of N. partly depends. They ought to be men who have interest enough in the University not to slight their duties because of the thanklessness of the task. All old students, and especially graduates who have spent their four to six years within its walls, have still some feelings of attachment for their *alma mater* and are more likely to do good, faithful work. The gentlemen most prominently spoken of for the positions, W. H. McAllister, '77, and B. B. Davis, '82, seem to us to fill these and other requirements. Mr. McAllister spent two years, after graduation, in Munich, and later served two terms in the state senate, where he furthered the interests of the U. of N. well in the matter of appropriations. Dr. Davis qualified himself by several years of study for his profession and has now one of the finest practices in southwestern Nebraska. Both gentlemen have the endorsement of the general press of the state and the solid support of their home delegations, as well as of many students, professors, and alumni of the University. The HESPERIAN thinks the best interests of the institution require that their candidacy be successful and hopes that such may be the case.

The reputation of a university depends not only upon the character of its graduates, but largely, also, upon the relations of the professors to the general public. The institutions whose instructors are fossils or recluses are little known in the general world. Fortunately the U. of N. has not this difficulty with which to contend. As a rule the heads of its departments are well known both in this state and in other states by their professional activity. In this connection we are glad to note that Prof. Edgren, of our chair of modern languages, is instructor of Zend, Sanskrit, and Gothic in the Chautauqua Assembly at Lake Chautauqua, N. Y. Besides this work, he lectures on comparative philology, this last summer on the "Picture language of India." His engagement there lasts for three years. We are proud that our institution can command such talent.

H. W. Brown keeps a full assortment of student's books.

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