

least concern sat upon the visages of the doctors as they discussed the almost phenomenal increase of young "medics" from year to year. The profession was already overcrowded, and yet they come forth in swarms every season. In the profession of law, the condition is much the same, and notwithstanding the Lord is supposed to exercise a special care over preachers, the ministry cannot be said to be an exception; teachers also are often found as apparent supernumeraries and unable to find satisfactory employment. What is to be done? What did the doctors do? They raised the standard of admission to their association and sought legislation favorable to a higher standard of admission to the medical profession. This made more room at the top, and at the bottom also, as many who had been practicing for years were retired because of inability to meet the new requirements; and the medical universities added another year to the required course of study, so that the output was not quite so rapid. So it is in all professions. The standard has advanced, but the demand for young men thoroughly equipped for their work in the educational world is as strong today as ever. Opportunities to do in a decade what formerly required a half or quarter century are frequently in evidence. Concrete examples are numerous, and might be mentioned in confirmation of the thought that ours is a day of great opportunity for young men in the large and inviting field of education. The author of this paper was himself a college president, however unskillful he may have been, at the age of thirty-three. Others have reached the same goal still younger. I do not say that wisdom suggests such things, but such is the fact, and it is but one example out of many of the young man's chance.

Defiance, Ohio, July 25, 1901.

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Members of the legal profession are accustomed to seek two kinds of success—pecuniary gain and political honors. In the past they have obtained wealth frequently, and more frequently gained public favors; while it is doubtful if they have not shared equally with our military heroes in the glories of our history. Certainly, Lincoln, the lawyer, is second only to Washington, the soldier in popular esteem; and the fame of Marshall, Jefferson and Hamilton may outlast that of Jackson, Grant or Dewey. In no other society has the lawyer occupied so conspicuous a position, and under no other form of government could he have been so well rewarded. The greatest success possible

for any American citizen is to become president of the United States, and a majority of our presidents have been lawyers. But it is well for the young lawyer with an eye to the future, to enquire why the lawyer has occupied so honorable a position in the past, and to remember that the most successful have not always been the wealthiest lawyers. Neither Marshall nor Webster would have been rated high in Bradstreet, and Benjamin Harrison, the most justly celebrated lawyer of his day, left a modest estate that would satisfy the ambition of few, modest, business men.

The lawyer's opportunity for making money was never so great as at present. The magnitude of ordinary business transactions has become such that the favored lawyer often receives a single fee, equal in amount to the earnings of a lifetime of the lawyer of the past. Yet the sums paid, enormous as they may seem to some, are not exorbitant. Proportioned to the amounts in-



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involved in such matters, the legal charge is light. Ten thousand dollars is often paid for drafting a single document, such as a mortgage to secure \$100,000,000, and this is not unreasonable, for when considered with reference to the value of the transaction to those paying the fee it is no greater than would be a fee of two dollars for drafting a mortgage to secure \$20,000. Nor is a fee of \$100,000 in a \$200,000,000 foreclosure proceedings so great a charge as would be a fee of \$10 on the foreclosure of a \$10,000 farm mortgage. The United States Steel Company can more easily afford to pay its chief counsel \$250,000 a year than a national bank with a capital of \$100,000 can afford to pay its counsel \$250 a year. Nor are such opportunities few. Given the proper qualifications, and every young lawyer possessing them, is limited in his capacity to earn money by his physical endurance only. Naturally, the qualifica-

tions are unusual, but they are not extraordinary—a thorough education, a practical mind, unusual energy, and temperate habits. With all of these, any young lawyer can find more work than he can do. Let him lack a single one, and he must depend more upon chance than upon opportunity.

But a word of warning is necessary to the young lawyer who, allured by the promise of pecuniary profits, may become insensible to their cost. He must pursue his ambition in one of our largest cities, and he must ally himself with a class. Let him weigh whether the prize is worth the sacrifices required. The social and business requirements of city life attack the seat of all happiness—good health—while association with a limited portion only of any community narrows the man. It is not only because the wealthy lawyer is rich that his fellow-men seldom thrust public honors upon him, but because in the pursuit of money, he generally becomes the exponent of the wealthy members of the community only, and as a result, too often loses all sympathy with those who oppose his contentions. The man who distrusts a jury, or fears the people, is out of touch with our institutions. The man whose daily duty it is, to defend a corporation finds it difficult to look upon the jury system as the palladium of our liberties, and to believe the public sincere in its declarations for equal rights. But this is because he is ever guarding a single interest. If the city lawyer represented now, as formerly he did, the poor man today and the rich man tomorrow, if he as often sought to uphold the will of the people, as to attack it on constitutional grounds; if his talents were at the command of oppressed poverty as often as they are to protect property from the unjust attacks of demagogues, he would view our institutions differently, and the public would take a kindlier view of him. But our nature is so weak that I fear the temptation to make money will continue to allure lawyers from the nobler walks of the profession to those that are more in harmony with the desires of the age. Yet as such walks will be closed to some, let the others console themselves with these truths: The lawyer who remains in the country will live longer, his life will be broader, and his opportunities are the best for obtaining the greatest success that is within the ambition of any man.

Chicago, Ill., July 15, 1901.

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Almost without our knowledge, certainly without the appreciation that will follow later on, our country has advanced from a subordinate place, to that of a great international factor with