

proportioned room was surrounded by books. The best editions of the best authors were there and a generous collection of the classics." "These," said Pleydell, "are my tools of trade. A lawyer without a knowledge of history or literature is a mechanic, a mere working mason. If he possesses some knowledge of these he may venture to call himself an architect.

What are the books that I would suggest to the lawyer and which will elevate him from a "mere working man" to an architect!

The Bible comes first, as it has the purest and most simple English and furnishes an unlimited field of forcible illustration. The lawyer who draws his pictures from that vast storehouse can rivet the attention of the simplest mind, can stir the most stubborn juror, and entertain the gravest judge.

Next to the Bible we must place Shakespeare, who wrote as no other man ever wrote in the English language, whose knowledge seems universal and power of expression boundless. How are we to measure the value of Shakespeare? He has left us a rich inheritance, greater than the possessions of old England. If the wealth of England should be destroyed, it could be replaced from the wealth of other nations, but if the writings of Shakespeare—the children of genius—were destroyed, how incomparably greater the loss, for there was and can be but one Shakespeare. That loss to the world could never be estimated. Of the more ancient classics, Homer and Virgil stand pre-eminent, and should be made perfectly familiar to every advocate who would give his public speech adornment and range of fancy necessary to place in high rank as an orator. Among the English orators and prose writers, Edmund Burke, in my judgment stands highest. His thought and depth and variety, his command of language marvelous, his learning was universal, his illustrations beautiful, and his manner polished. No man can read Burke for an hour without feeling his own mind has become expanded, and that he is ready to take a more comprehensive view of the world that surrounds him, than before. The writings and speeches of Edmund Burke should be the companion of every lawyer. America has not his equal in general knowledge combined with classical culture, but she has produced one orator who was a greater statesman, possessed with more power when dealing with questions that concern the welfare of great governments. The reading of his speeches expands and broadens the intellect, and fits the student for deep and careful meditation upon the perplexing problems of the law. I refer to Daniel Webster, whose name seems inseparable from the grandeur that surrounds his memory.

A lawyer, too, should have lighter literature to keep alive his inventive genius, to keep his imagination from becoming dulled as age creeps over him. Scott, Bulwer, and Victor Hugo stand high in this department. No lawyer should think that he has ever reached the time of life when his hours of recreation cannot be made pleasant by the companionship of these novelists nor his mind brightened by their wonderful pen pictures.

I do not wish to be understood as fixing the limit of a lawyer's reading. I have simply suggested the character of literature and range of thought necessary to develop the man into a profound thinker, a cultured speaker and fit him for the responsibilities of this most exacting profession.

The lawyer of America to become great must be something more than a lawyer. He should be a statesman. No lawyer can ever be called great in his profession unless he rises above the mere trial of lawsuits, which involve commonplace actions in court for the recovery of money, or contests over the title of real property. He only becomes great when he is able to grapple with questions within the jurisdiction of our American

courts, which take cognizance of matters of national concern. Erskine became great in the defense of the people against the encroachment of the king, and when he secured the right of trial by jury. Marshall became great when he defined and carried out the expansive power of the federal constitution. Pinkney became great when he argued the case of "The *Neride*," which evoked from Chief Justice Marshall the recognition of a master mind as an orator. Daniel Webster became great as a lawyer when he wrested from the court the famous Dartmouth college decision. William Wert became great when he expounded before the power of congress to regulate navigation within the limits of states in the case of *Gibbons vs. Ogden*. I might go on with illustrations of William H. Seward, Charles O'Connor, James T. Brady, Jeremiah S. Black, and of others no less renowned. I might speak of some still living, such as David Dudley Field, William M. Evarts, Senator Edmunds, John F. Dillon and a host of others.

The lawyers and judges who settled the questions of interstate commerce, of a national currency as defined in the legal tender decisions, of reconstruction amid the clamorings of rival states, or the election of a president of this republic, have held in their grasp the liberty of this people, have stood between peace and war, and preserved the rich inheritance of freedom.

So liberal and so thorough is the training of the minds of great lawyers through the study of general jurisprudence that they are fitted to take places in the front rank of American statesmen in the public service. One writer has said, "the mind of the American lawyer bounds through broad regions in which it is permitted to expatiate as the winds dash about the great American prairies."

The highway of honor is open to American lawyers. They have shown their executive ability in the government of states. They have shown their legislative ability in the house of representatives and in the senate. They have shown their ability to rule nations by the large number who have filled the presidential chair. The man who first fashioned the sound financial policy of this country was a lawyer, Alexander Hamilton. The secretaries of state who settled the most trying difficulties between the United States and the nations of Europe were lawyers, Daniel Webster and William H. Seward. The statesman who handled the portfolio of war during our late gigantic rebellion was a lawyer, Edmund M. Stanton. The man who held the destiny of this nation in his hands, and by God granted wisdom brought freedom to 4,000,000 slaves and saved the nation from the wreck and ruin of slashing armies, as the president of our United States, was a lawyer, Abraham Lincoln.

And now a word to you as professors of this university. The state has given you the power to add to this already prosperous institution of learning, a college of law. In other departments of the university you are giving to the young people a preliminary education, which fits them when they have gone out from this school for study thereafter in special callings, so that as to them you are not performing a completed work. In the department of law, however, you have taken a step in advance. In this you are undertaking to fit these men to enter at once upon the practice of one of the noblest and grandest professions. This work should be thorough and complete. I have said something of the labors and duties that these young men must perform when they go forth to battle with the world, if they are to secure honor for themselves and bring credit upon this university. They must climb high upon the steps of the ladder of learning, so as to be above the reach of meaner rivals. They must be fitted to dive deep into the science of the profession which they are to