

to disguise matters as well as wrest the law. Edward Bellamy in the new utopia soon about to dawn, dispenses with lawyers. Swift makes Gulliver say to his master, "there was a society of men among us bred up from their youth in the art of proving by words, multiplied for the purpose, that white is black and black is white, according as they are paid. To this society all the rest of the people are slaves."

The lawyer laughs at the extravagance of this calumny, because he feels safe in his position. He knows that the profession has been the theme of eulogy and admiration in all ages; that under the rule of popular government the odium that has attached to the advocates of arbitration and tyrannical law no longer sticks to the profession. Opinions derogatory to the character of the bar expressed in a flippant manner are more unjust when applied to the profession as a whole. I challenge you to find an equal number of men to whom are committed such vast interests who have been more faithful to their charge. I appeal to the experience of the bar and to litigants and ask them to call to mind whom they have known that appropriated trust funds, sold out their clients, or betrayed their confidence. Rumors are plentiful, but known instances of misconduct are far from numerous, so we are justified in declaring that integrity is the rule, and dishonesty the exception. Let us then glorify our calling, and erect for it a lofty standard. There is little danger that we can exaggerate the qualifications demanded at the bar, for without an adequate conception of the requirements of the calling it is impossible to fulfill the duties we stand pledged to society to fulfill. There is no reason why this forum may not be the theatre of events that call forth the profoundest learning, the highest arts of advocacy and legal acumen. Here will come causes that will try "the mettle of your pasture." In this city, with its universities and seats of learning, now but "the baby finger of the giant mass of things to come at large," with its United States supreme and district courts, with a law library

equal to any demand upon it, with hosts of lawyers from distant parts thronging these forums, foemen worthy of your steel; with great corporate interests and other enterprises centering here needing counsel and guidance, and more or less fruitful of litigation, there is no reason why the bar should lack a spur to achieve the highest honors of the profession.

These influences have always bred an able and distinguished bar at the capitals of states and have moulded and equipped lawyers for the highest places in the nation. We already have an able bar numbering among its members those whose reputation is not limited by state lines. But the ability and prestige of the bar must grow with the development and need of the state. The situation is full of hope and inspiration to the younger members, if they start in with a stout heart and an iron digestion, remembering that success lies with them, and not in their starts, not to be won without dust and heat, keeping ever before them great names that have shed undying lustre upon the profession, shall with unconquerable resolution force their way over the thorns and thickets of the first years of their pursuit, they will at last wear the garlands and be crowned with the honors of the noblest of the learned professions. Some wise man has said that a lawyer is an odd kind of fruit, first rotten, then green, then ripe, representing the stages in a lawyer's career. First; there is a period of study-preparation-followed by a despairing wait for an opportunity, a chance, then a period of awkward, immature performance, then the finished work. Buckle to your work until you get fairly well out of the rotten period, and barring the ups and downs incident to any vocation, the path is plain to the end of the road.

In conclusion, allow me to say that our presence here to-day is a tribute to the law. Let us all acknowledge its sway and supremacy as it spreads silently, steadily over this immense territorial realm, enfolding all in its embrace. The pioneer in his dug-out, the miner in the cabin on the mountain side, the freighter on the outpost, the herder on the plain, the citizen, rich or poor, wherever his abode, then will this college of law not have been established in vain.