

"Quoth Sancho, that great dish which I see smoking yonder I take to be an olla-podrida; and amidst the diversity of things therein contained, I may surely light upon something both wholesome and toothsome."

It is the boast of our American people that, owing to our very great diversity of soil and climate, we are able to show well-nigh every product of nature, from the tropical fruits of Florida, Texas and the Pacific Coast, to the hardy pines of frigid Maine. But while America may be proud of her diversity of products in other directions, her greatest praise for variety of production is certainly in the line of law. If a vote were put upon any conceivable point, to the reports of the thirty-eight States, rarely indeed would it be "unanimously carried." It has been poetically said that when Nero died "one" hand strewed flowers upon his tomb; and no matter how bad your case may be, you may rest assured that you can lay upon its tomb the tribute of some precedent in its favor, from the United States Digest.

Let us suppose, however, that you have gone through all these processes of enlightenment, and have bombarded the court with the various legal artilleries I have named. Let us suppose your case so bad that you can develop nothing in the constitution or the statutes, or the decisions to support you. Still do not succumb. Your case is a hard one. But all is not yet lost. There is one last resort for the despairing attorney. There is one faint light which his dying eyes may see. It may not amount to much. It may prove illusive. But it is the duty of the lawyer to try all legal means. As a last resort therefore, my friends, and only in that dreadful extremity, fall back upon what is known as the "argument of the principle" and the "merits of the case."

In that emergency, you may proceed to give, possibly from your own personal knowledge, a vivid biographical sketch of the moral perfections of your client; and perhaps likewise a converse picture of the mental and moral obliquities of his opponent. Pay that compliment to the credibility of your witnesses which they have always deserved, but