

is called upon to advise—that there are facts necessarily complicated by reason of the temperament or the feelings of the client himself; there are facts that are omitted, not intentionally, but because the client is not familiar with the practice of the law, or because he does not consider many of these facts important enough to state them to his advisor. Thus you have a one-sided case told to the solicitor; you have facts complicated and exaggerated; and you have facts omitted altogether. Then you have the wrongs of your client exaggerated and his rights magnified, and that has an impression upon the mind of the solicitor, which he should resent, as much as possible, or, rather, prevent it operating upon his mind when he comes to consider what the real rights of his client are. And remember also, that the client who consults you has not always an exclusive monopoly of honesty. His opponent may not always be the villain; your client may not be the saint; there are good and bad on both sides, and it is in the effort of getting at what is really the truth in the matter, where the solicitor's or counsel's duty becomes very difficult indeed.

Judging from what I have said, it seems very important that the conditions should be right at the beginning, and I think I can appeal to all the lawyers who are here, I can appeal to the learned judges who hear the cases when they come before them in a concrete form and have the wheat presented instead of the chaff, that the great point in the conduct of an action is to start right—I do not mean as a mere matter of technical pleading, or as a mere matter of writing upon paper—but the idea I have, and what I wish to convey is, that, if you can see along the whole line of your litigation to the ultimate result, and you know that by starting right you are going to follow along the true line to the end, then the action is half won, if it is capable of being won at all. If you start wrong, with a wrong sizing up of the situation, or an erroneous view of the circumstances, the result is that you are wrong all the way through, and the end is worse than the beginning. Law suits, quite apart from the legal aspect, have the most wonder-