

*ENGLISH VIEWS OF THE STATE OF THE BAR  
AND QUALIFICATIONS FOR IT.*

Mr. Cock, Q. C., a barrister of London, recently confided to a representative of the press his views on the bar as a profession. He thought that a young man going to the bar should be prepared to support himself for at least five years independently of his profession, and referred to a judge now on the bench who waited quite ten years before he got a single brief. He might also have referred to the case of Mr. Justice Blackstone, who waited nearly fifteen years, during which time he had only two briefs, and then retired to the university to prepare his matchless commentaries, discouraged of success at the bar. According to Mr. Cock, it is not merely talent and ability that are required at the bar, but rather a combination of qualities. The bar, he thinks, is by no means overcrowded with men who have the qualities necessary for the work. This he proves by citing the fact that only a certain few men conduct all the big cases. A good voice, a good temper, and a good memory, are among the qualities that he considers necessary for success at the bar.

Another barrister has just contributed an article on "The State of the Bar" to the *National Review*. This writer seeks to disillusion young university men who think that their scholarship and eloquence will give them the prizes of the profession. "You are a great man here," said a great lawyer to a young don at Oxford, who announced his intention of adding the law to his conquests, "but at the bar you'll be dirt." The accumulation of a knowledge of principles, grasp of mind to assimilate and see the relations of facts, knowledge of men—these are the real stock-in-trade of the successful barrister. As for eloquence, he will be amply equipped for some time if he can put clearly a plausible suggestion. As for smartness, he is better without it; and as for guile, let him stifle the very thought of it until he has established a solid reputation for ingenuousness.

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*THE SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE OF LAW.*

In a recent interview about the practice of law to-day and the probabilities and requisites of success, Hon. John F. Dillon said:

"The successful practice of the law in modern times requires very much more than a mere technical knowledge of the practical affairs of the world. Most cases do not present mere