

the line which one may not honestly pass. We see them, and not without reason, suspected of deception, of trickery, and even of suborning perjury on behalf of clients, and under the pressure of only ordinary motives. To add the strong one of a personal interest in the result, may well blind one to the character of acts, the counsel merely might have been able to see.

3rd. It degrades the profession. I do not expect the modern lawyer to take the place of the aristocratic Roman jurisconsult, whose reward for the labor of studying and expounding the law was the fame, the influence and often the official positions they gave him; nor would I make his claim merely an honorary one. No class works harder than successful lawyers. To none is society more indebted than to the industrious and upright members of the bar, and I know no reason why they should not be paid like other workers. But the service should not be made the subject of a gambling venture. Reward for labor is one thing—speculation in chances is another. To receive a reward for honest work, and an adequate one, is honorable to him who receives and to him who pays. As an honest trade, each party feels the benefit, the sense of justice is satisfied and the transaction is not disturbed by the feverish excitement of a mere speculation. As gambling corrupts trade, changing the stock board or the corn exchange into a mere gaming resort, converting that which was designed to facilitate legitimate exchange into an excited arena of combatants with fortune, substituting the honor of the gambler for the obligations known to the commercial code, so, if the lawyer is taught to look to chance results for his gains rather than rely upon rules of justice and fair dealing, his mind will be diverted from professional duty to the calculation of chances, will be disturbed by its resultant fever, and he will necessarily become a poorer lawyer and a worse man. Fortunes have been made by this class of fees. Men have taken them who have had and who are entitled to public confidence. Yet I cannot but feel that the general effect upon the bar has been bad. Those eminent attorneys, who by successful draws, have thus received rewards out of all proportion to the value of their services, who are thereby enabled to ape the style of the shoddy contractor, or the successful speculator or gambler, become objects of envy and imitation to all their less successful brethren. Lawsuits become their lottery; and labor for a certain but moderate reward becomes a tame business. When applied too, or, more often, when they have hunted up a stale or sleeping demand, perhaps for unliquidated damages so trifling in fact as to be forgotten, but to be so exaggerated, if not simulated, as to wake the sympathy and imagination of a jury, or perhaps for valuable land for which the claimant, or his ancestors, or their vendors have once been paid, their first thought is how much they can draw from this scheme, not how much they shall earn. Need I describe the effect of such scheming upon character, upon that nice sense of duty and of right that one should cherish as more precious than the apple of his eye?

Our whole moral atmosphere is corrupted by the passion for sudden wealth. The slow accumulations of industry are despised. The healthy glow of honest toil gives way to the fever of gaming ventures. The moral instincts, fed by such toil and its due reward, find only poison in the latter, and it is no wonder