

cences, the abnormal growths, and the diseased and swollen members, and give scientific treatment and readjustment to that which remains. It is not extravagant to say that, so long as we allow these abnormal foreign growths to remain, the very life of the body politic itself is threatened. The essence of law is liberty. The purpose of law is liberty.

It will not very much avail us to have a large body of law if, in accumulating it, we miss the very purpose of all law. Among the ancient Greeks there was a contest, which consisted in a race in which every contestant started from the line holding a lighted torch. Victory was to him who crossed the finishing line first, *with his torch still burning*. It was of no advantage to him to be fleet of foot and reach the goal first, if his light went out while he was running in the course. As nations, we must run the race and finish the course, but it will be of little avail to us if at the end we find that the light of liberty has been extinguished. There is danger that we become slaves of law, because of our failure to properly observe the function of law. We have taken it out of its proper sphere of furnishing an arena for untrammelled individual effort, to be a governmental lodging house, where anyone may secure sustenance, shelter and repose if he may beg, borrow or steal a ticket of admission.

The function of law, as has been said, is to act as Umpire. It is not the function of law to play the game for us. Its use is to see that there is no cheating, and no over-reaching, and that each man shall have opportunity to exercise his talents to the full in the contest. The law shoots the pistol for the beginning of the race, and regulates the course, but it cannot and should not carry the contestants over it. We have wandered far from that idea. Great as is the science of law, it must be kept within its province. It must be discriminated from those things which it is not, and it must be closely confined to those things which it is. Law is a thing to practise, not to practise upon. It is a science, and not a business. It is an ideal, and not a deal at a game of cards. It is a noble profession, and not a juggler's trick box. It inculcates, if it is true to its office, respect for the other fellow's point of view; and that is the beginning.