

ing more stories, though the remark I have just made reminds me of something worth relating. Some years ago I put an advertisement in the principal journals, and, wishing to draw attention to my personal views, I stated that only those who had some qualification to be called 'men of the world' need respond. Would you believe that I had a letter of four or five pages from one candidate, seemingly an educated man, in which he said he had been to America, India, the colonies, and a number of other places, adding, 'so I hope that I have established my claim to being something of a man of the world.' To return for a moment to statistics and the chances in the future, we must remember that in this country any man can become a solicitor who goes through the needful process, and opens an office, and puts on a door-plate, the latter often proportionately large to the smallness of the business. This sort of thing cannot be done on the other side of the Channel. There the number of solicitors is limited. Every district has its allotted number, and although you may go through your articles, you must wait till somebody dies, or in some way or another depend upon the shoes of another person. In France there is a large class of persons called 'hommes d'affaires' who perform a substantial share of the business which we as solicitors perform. We are in fact the 'hommes d'affaires' here. The men in France who devote themselves to that particular office are often first-rate diplomatists, but know very little law. I do not say that their duties are precisely like some of those which we perform. Such advisers, however designated, must always be in demand, for in this world of ours it is impossible for those who are engaged in anything like a large way to personally manage many matters connected with their affairs, and they must have a 'man of business' to attend to them. That 'man of business' in this country is a solicitor, and the 'business' which so largely falls upon the shoulders of the solicitor requires many of the qualities I have named to perform it satisfactorily, quite irrespective of the needful knowledge of law. I do not myself see how it is possible for all those who are daily admitted to our profession to

earn anything like a substantial subsistence therefrom, and I have come to the conclusion, and I always say it whenever I get the opportunity, that the time has gone past in this country for sending men into the ranks of solicitors merely because it is an honourable calling. With regard to the bar, men intending to practise as advocates mostly show an aptitude for the business they are going to undertake, whereas a man is often articulated to a solicitor without having any aptitude whatever for acting as an adviser. Of course the position is less serious for a young man who has a business already made for him, and who has only to hang up his hat in the office to start work, but even then he must nowadays, as I have said before, possess some practical ability to keep his inheritance going. Those of us who remain in the profession will, I think, see litigation decrease more and more. Few people like litigation. I suppose we shall never have a complete code in this country, but the decisions of the judges during the present generation have gone far to supply a code which in a measure tends to decrease contentious work. I believe, for example, that there have been fewer actions with regard to bills of exchange since the law on that subject has been codified. To my mind, however, the cardinal cause of decrease of litigation is the delay and uncertainty in the trial of actions. The ill-judged parsimony of the Treasury on the one hand, resulting in an insufficient staff to try cases, and the extraordinary and remarkable want of organisation on the other, produce deplorable delay and uncertainty. Though, thanks to the Law Society and the Bar Committee, some useful rules are now in operation to soften down things, men are ready to settle their disputes on almost any terms rather than have to hang about from week to week and month to month in the Courts of law waiting for a hearing. It may be said by some that we are going to improve all these things. I have a very strong impression that the present system will last as long as I shall remain in the legal profession, and probably a great deal longer. There are too many conflicting interests in the way. Those who have any commercial business will support