

conveyancer from winnowing the grain from the chaff, and, on occasion, referring to the work with advantage to himself and his clients?

To make effective use of American cases something more substantial and serviceable is required than proceeds from a mind inadequately disciplined with legal rules, or severely rationed on text-books. Past generations were under no illusion as to what was necessary to such a liberal education as we deem requisite for the purpose, and we fear the following noteworthy and admirably expressed passage is as true to-day as it was at the commencement of the Victorian era:—"It is an opinion very generally entertained (and one more pernicious could hardly have taken root) that a correct and comprehensive knowledge of principles can be best acquired from the study of dogmatical or elementary treatises; and, accordingly, such works have superseded, in many instances, all inductive inquiry into the original sources of our law. The student may rest assured that a procedure of this sort, in which the mind is a mere passive recipient, can only serve to make what Lord Bacon significantly calls 'lawyers in haste,' who, for the most part, may be truly likened to those blades of corn that grow yellow before the harvest, but have empty ears.' So much, indeed, is the current idea as to learning rudimentary law a reversal of the truth, that we should not be surprised if this admirable statement came, to many in their pupilage, as a flood of bright sunlight and a sharp note of warning. Should such peradventure happen to be the case, may this quotation seminate, as many another has in past time, a higher standard of attainment and a more worthy ambition, and so fructify into a most successful use of the harvest—a good selection of leading cases, whether they happen to be of home or transatlantic origin.—*Solicitors' Journal*.