

of law or knowledge of man, or knowledge of women, all of which are very necessary ingredients in his composition—I say nothing of the even more necessary knowledge of judges (laughter)—so far I have been insisting that in the outfit of the advocate the two things that are most important are: first, the ability and the willingness to work, so as to accumulate all the material available; and, secondly, the judgment and the character which will winnow out of these materials and select what is really necessary for the purpose in hand. Accumulation, selection, rejection,—those, I think, are the reading, writing and arithmetic of advocacy.

I know it is said, and some people believe it most fervently, that since advocacy is the art of persuasion the most important thing in advocacy is to make a flowery speech. Well, forensic eloquence has, so we are told by historians, flourished in various ages, but I cannot bring myself to believe that highly rhetorical periods really ever have had, either on judge or on juries, quite all the influence which historians and biographers assure us they did have in the case of the particular subject of their admiration. At any rate, it is a product which does not keep. Can anything be more depressing than reading the rolling periods even of great speeches like Brougham's defence of Queen Caroline—I would almost say, of Burke's impeachment of Warren Hastings?

I think it is said of Lord Erskine that on one occasion when he appeared for a candle maker before a common jury at the Guildhall in the City of London, in an action for libel, he began by saying: "Gentlemen of the Jury, the reputation of a tallow chandler is like the bloom upon a peach. (Laughter.) Touch it, and it is gone forever." (Laughter.) I feel certain that Lord Erskine got justice and considerable damages for his client, but I have great difficulty in believing that it was his rhetorical language which greatly weighed the scales in the plaintiff's favour.

The truth is that at its best forensic eloquence is like dry champagne—if indeed I may be permitted (laughter) in this part of the world to make such a reference. (Laughter.) That is to say, however effervescent it may be when the bottle is first opened, it is impossible to preserve it in a good state for very long. There is not, after all, very much