

spread itself out before their enraptured gaze, feel themselves fanned by its intoxicating breezes, behold its sunlit heights glorified and beautiful, and proudly feel that it, too, is their inheritance.

With this let us contrast the life and professional career of an eminent English contemporary of Mr. Field's earlier life,—I refer to Sir William Follett, who in his day was as distinctly the leader of the bar as was Lord Erskine in his. The picture has been drawn by Sir William's own friend, the accomplished Talfourd, who in his "Vacation Rambles," tells us that there was brought to him in 1846, when on his journey through Italy, the usual register of visitors, and that, turning over its pages, he was startled by the name of Sir William Follett written in tremulous characters just before his death, which had occurred but a short time before Talfourd saw his signature. After reviewing Follett's professional career, usually pronounced so brilliant, Talfourd mournfully inquired, "What remains?" and he answered, "A name dear to the affections of a few friends; a waning image of a modest and earnest speaker, though decidedly the head of the common law bar; and the splendid example of success embodied in a fortune of £200,000 acquired in ten years, the labors of which hastened the extinction of his life; these," he added, "these are all the world possesses of Sir William Follett. To mankind, to his country, to his profession, he left nothing; not a measure conceived, not a danger averted, not a principle vindicated, not a speech intrinsically worth preservation, not a striking image, nor an affecting sentiment; in his death the power of mortality is supreme. How strange—how sadly strange—that a course so splendid should end in darkness so obscure."

Follett did not discharge the debt he owed to the profession, and, therefore, did not answer to the completest professional ideal of the lawyer. Mr. Field not only paid the debt due to his profession, but overpaid it and thus became its creditor, and in this answered more fully than lawyers like Follett the highest professional ideal.

In the report on legal education before mentioned, it appears that there are over fifty law schools in the United States, having a membership of more than six thousand students—the committee not having the means of ascertaining the number of students who were pursuing their studies in private offices outside of the law