

## *The Twenty-first of June.*

Charles Gordon Curtiss, of the law firm of Curtiss, Curtiss & Gordon, had a double reputation to sustain. He was young to have been admitted to the famous law firm, and he was young to have won distinction on the lecture platform. This latter distinction was quite pronounced. Public speaking had been a specialty of his throughout his college course. In the intercollegiate debates that had been numerous during his career as a student, his own college had been disposed to settle back complacently to await victory, whenever the name of Charles Gordon Curtiss was on the list of contestants.

"Besides knowing how to say things in a most effective manner," said, at one time, no less an authority than President Holland, "Curtiss invariably has something to say; and you know it is quite remarkable to have those qualifications unite in one person."

Others besides President Holland acknowledged Mr. Curtiss's marked literary ability.

"You ought to have been a teacher," his favorite professor told him, testily. "It is ridiculous to waste your sort of talent in a law office."

There had been a period in his life when Mr. Curtiss had sympathized with his professor, and had seriously meditated devoting himself entirely to literary pursuits; but there