

Such lawyers with us are few, thanks to the care of our law societies and Bar councils. That some should slip past is unavoidable, for we have no sure test of the character of the student before coming to our law societies, and we cannot well adopt the testing system of Venice 2,000 years ago as described in the Memoirs of Carlo Goldoni. He says:—

"I began to reflect on the profession of which I had made choice. There are generally two hundred and forty advocates in the list at Venice; of these there are from ten to twelve in first rank, twenty perhaps in the second, and all the rest are obliged to hunt for clients, and the pettifogging attorneys are willing enough to become their hounds on the condition of sharing together their prey.

"While I was thus musing by myself, and building castles in Spain, I observed a fair, round and plump woman of about thirty, advancing towards me, of a tolerable figure, with a flat nose, roguish eyes, a profusion of gold about her neck, ears, arms and fingers, and in a dress which announced her to be of the inferior orders, but in easy circumstances; she accosted me and saluted me. 'Good-day, sir.' 'Good-day, madam.' 'Will you allow me to pay you my compliments?' 'On what?' 'On your admission; I observed you making your obeisance at court.' . . . 'So you know me, madam?' 'I! I know every person here from the dogs to the clerks of court. . . . I was born and brought up in these gilded halls, and you see I have gold upon me.' 'Your story is very singular; so you follow the footsteps of your mother?' 'No, sir, I do something else.' 'And what is that?' 'I solicit lawsuits.' 'Solicit lawsuits, I do not understand you.' 'Do you know, sir, that such as you see me, I have made the fortune of a good dozen of the most famous advocates at this Bar? Come, take courage, sir; with your good leave, I shall also be the making of you.' I was amused with listening to her; and as my servant did not arrive, I continued the conversation.

"'Very well, madam, have you any good affair at present?' 'Yes, sir, I have several, and some of them excellent. I have a widow suspected of having concealed effects; another anxious that a contract of marriage drawn posterior to its date should be held good; I have girls who demand to be portioned; I have wives who wish a separation; and I have people of condition pursued by their creditors; you see, you have only to choose.'

"'My good woman,' said I to her, 'I have allowed you to speak, and I wish now to speak in my turn. I am young and