

in the House of Representatives is strong. These things being so, Mr. Field rightly remarks (and his words apply with equal force to our own Dominion, where the lawyer is almost as prominent), the training and discipline of lawyers and their notions of duty and honour are matters of concern to the whole body politic. Whatever may tend to elevate them in their own just estimation, or in that of the public, and the better enable them to understand their true calling and prompt them to fulfil it, should be the study of their lives.

The duties of lawyers to their clients and the courts are given in the language of the Code of Civil Procedure for New York, and chiefly copied from the old Genevan oath. They are, "To support the Constitution and laws of the United States and of this State. To maintain the respect due to the courts of justice and judicial officers; to counsel and maintain such actions, proceedings, or defences only as appear to him legal and just, except the defence of a person charged with a public offence; to employ for the purpose of maintaining the causes confided to him such means only as are consistent with truth, and never seek to mislead the judges by any artifice or false statement of law or fact; to maintain inviolate the confidence, and at every peril to himself to preserve the secrets, of his clients; to abstain from all offensive personality, and to advance no fact prejudicial to the honour or reputation of a party or witness, unless required by the justice of the cause with which he is charged; not to encourage either the commencement or continuance of an action or proceeding from any motive of passion or interest, and never to reject for any consideration personal to himself the cause of the defenceless or the oppressed." These are, truly, apples of gold in pictures of silver, and worthy to be taught diligently to our students-at-law, to be talked of at all times, to be bound as a sign upon the head, to be written upon the posts of the house and on the gates of every practitioner.

Mr. Field thinks a lawyer is bound to deliver his opinion to every comer, with this qualification, however, that if he knows that his opinion will be abused for unlawful or unjust purposes, he should withhold it. He admits that his craft does not rigidly perform the duties due to the State. These are his words: "We (the Americans) are a boastful people; we make no end of saying what great things we have done and are doing, and yet behind these brilliant shows there stands a spectre of halting justice such as is to be seen in no other part of Christendom. So far as I am aware there is no other country calling itself civilized where it takes so long to punish a criminal and so many years to get a final decision between man and man. Truly may we say that justice passes through the land on leaden sandals." Yet for the sixty millions in the United States there are nearly seventy thousand lawyers, while France with her forty millions has but eight thousand four hundred, and Germany with forty-five millions has only seven thousand. "Is it any wonder that a cynic should say that we American lawyers talk more and speed less than any other equal number of men known to history." (On the other hand, the editor of the *Albany Law Journal* says: "There is no country in the world where there is less criminal violence and where human life is safer than in England, and the reason is the promptness, certainty, and severity of punishment.")