

naturally expects that he will be doing business with that firm, and obtain all the benefits he hopes to obtain by selecting them as his legal advisers. He *may* do so, but has he any positive assurance that he will? Can he be certain that this manager will transmit his case to his principals, and, above all, in the shape and form that he received it?

Every professional man knows how difficult it is for a client, especially if he be tolerably ignorant, to state his case exactly as he intends it. How often he has to be called on to explain just what he means; and how necessary it is for the adviser to catechize his client, before he can come to a thorough understanding of the case. To this it may be answered that one of the firm regularly attends, at fixed times, to give advice to those requiring it. But can a person in need of such advice always wait for the, say, weekly advent of the adviser? Will he not, in an emergency, be sometimes almost compelled to take such advice as the manager can give, and which, not seldom, that manager thinks himself competent to give? A suit once commenced, all the steps in that suit must necessarily pass through the hands, and be subject to the revision of the principals; but there is a good deal of business in a lawyer's office which does not need to do so, and this, no doubt, the manager thinks himself quite equal to, without any communication with the head office.

Take the case of a sick man requiring his will to be made, and that in urgent haste, does the manager realize that in such a case, above all others, there is need of the intervention of some one who, by his legal education, understands the technical meaning of certain phrases, and the use of which, like a chisel in a child's hands, often works in the opposite way from that intended? No doubt as to ordinary conveyancing, such as drawing a deed, mortgage, lease, etc., any two-years' student is quite competent for it, and that as to this class of work the establishment of branch offices may be said to be excusable, as tending to prevent the employment of unlicensed conveyancers. Had Blackstone written in these days, he might have said, under the head of Rights of Persons, "The right to be treated by some one properly qualified to do so"; and, under the Rights of Things, "The right to insist on being handled by some one competent for that purpose."