

CORRESPONDENCE—LAW STUDENTS' DEPARTMENT.

Is it not possible to read Rule 176 in a less literal but more consistent manner as follows: "As soon as either party, *who is entitled under the rules aforesaid to join issue*, has joined issue, etc."? This reading would harmonize with the former Chancery practice, and also with the other rules and forms of the Judicature Act, and a joinder of issue would once more find itself postponed to a statement of defence.

A. C. GALT.

Toronto, Oct. 20, 1886.

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STUDENT'S CONDUCT OF LIFE.

It is somewhat old-fashioned, though there is plenty of authority for it in our legal literature, to offer general good advice for the student's conduct of life. Such advice is apt to fall upon a dilemma. If you have had the experience on which it is founded, you do not need it; if not, you will not believe it. And after you have forgotten the advice and the adviser, and discovered the truth of things at your own charge, you will say to yourself quite innocently, Why did not some one tell me this before? Yet a few hints of warning and encouragement may fall on kindly soil and ripen. And therefore I would say to the student going forth into the heat of the day, Trust your own faculties and the genius of your University, and beware of the idols of the forum. You will meet those who will endeavour to persuade you that it is "unbusinesslike" to be a complete man: that you should renounce exercises and accomplishments, abjure the liberal arts, and burn your books of poetry. Do this, and the tempters will shortly make you as one of themselves. You will steadfastly regard your profession as a trade: you will attain an intolerable mediocrity, the admiration of crass clients, and the mark of double-edged compliments from the court: you will soberly carry out the rule laid down in bitter jest by a judge who was a true scholar, of attending to costs first, practice next, and principle last: you will stand for Parliament, not as being minded to serve the common weal, but as thinking it good for you in your business; and if you are fortunate or

importunate enough, you may ultimately become some sort of an Assistant Commissioner, or a Queen's Counsel with sufficient leisure to take an active part in the affairs of your Inn, and prevent its library from being encumbered with new-fangled rubbish of foreign scientific books. But if you be true men, you will not do this; you will refuse to fall down and worship the shoddy-robed goddess Banausia, and you will play the greater game in which there is none that loses, and the winning is noble. Let go nothing that becomes a man of bodily or of mental excellence. The day is past, I trust, when these can seem strange words from a chair of jurisprudence. Professors are sometimes men of flesh and blood, and professors of special sciences are not always estranged from the humanities. For my part, I would in no wise have the oar, or the helm, or the ice-axe, or the rifle, unfamiliar to your hands. I would have you learn to bear arms for the defence of the realm, a wholesome discipline and service of citizenship for which the Inns of Court offer every encouragement, and for learning to be a man of your hands with another weapon or two besides, if you be so minded. Neither would I have you neglect the humanities. I could wish that every one of you were not only well versed in his English classics, but could enjoy in the originals Homer, and Virgil, and Dante, and Rabelais and Goethe. He who is in these ways, all or some of them, a better man will be never the worse lawyer. Nay more, in the long run he will find that all good activities confirm one another, and that his particular vocation gathers light and strength from them all.

And what is to be the reward of your labour, when you have brought all your best faculties to bear upon your chosen study? Is it that you will have more visible success and prosperity than others who have worked with laxer attention or with lower aims? Is it that the world will speak better of you? Once more, that is not the reward which science promises to you, or to any man. These

*The Inns of Court School of Arms is well approved by the authority of our old writers on Pleas of the Crown and the office of a Justice of the Peace, who all say that cudgel-playing and such like sports, as tending to activity and courage, are lawful and even laudable. Hawkins (P. C. 1. 484) closes a whole *catena* of such authority.