

sions arrived at. There must be no suspicion of ambiguity or uncertainty.

Such a law treatise requires a prodigious amount of labor. Before engaging in it, the author should be satisfied that he has a peculiar fitness for the work in hand, and must in fact be well adapted by temperament and habits for impartial, thorough, and exact investigation. Such a task requires a long period of preparation—even the studies of twenty years. The subject must be all gone over time and time again, and, before any work is done in actual text-writing, the author should have carefully prepared a thorough analysis of the subject in all its phases and in all its forms, following out all its ramifications. His work will be like the steel framework of a great structure, which stands massive, and strong, and complete, before the outside wall is built or the interior furnishings prepared. When the writer has thus prepared his analysis, saturated himself with the subject until he can think of nothing else; when he has on his mind a clear, though possibly general, idea of all that the question involves, he should begin the work of writing the text, being first perfectly clear in his own mind as to what he wants to say and how he proposes to say it. He should present, as we have said, the reasons, as well as the principles, and should make sure that no cases are omitted in his consideration of the matter.

Two other important requirements must also be observed. The first is an artistic and orderly arrangement of the text into chapters, sections and paragraphs, so that each branch of the subject will be treated sequentially and at the proper time and place. There should be a concise analysis of each chapter, and the various sections should indicate their contents through bold text catch-words. The index must be most thorough, indicating, without too many cross-references, the contents of the book, so that the reader may find what he is looking for.

These are exacting requirements; but why should not the profession demand of the law-book writer that he be both competent and give sufficient time to the preparation of his work, so that it will be of real value to the practitioner? Law books are intended for the members of the profession, and to save them the labor of individual investigation in each case; their primary object is not, as many suppose, to make money for the writer or wealth for the publishers, although that would be the natural result if