

THE VARSITY

A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events.

VOL. XXII.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, OCTOBER 21, 1902.

No. 2.

The University and the Legal Profession.

THE successful lawyer of the near future will be a hard-working business man in closest touch with the business interests of the community. The masters of great undertakings will be his clients, and they will look to him for an acute and well-trained mind, a comprehensive view, sound judgment, and a thorough knowledge of the law.

With a firm grounding of general principles, he will tend to specialize in some particular branch of the profession. His "forum" will be in new fields, and his voice more often heard in board rooms than in the courts of justice. Litigation he will strive to restrain and avert and the differences that he and his professional brethren cannot adjust (for this will be their duty), will be worthy the consideration of bench and bar.

For the special gifts of the counsel—the "pleader" of the layman—there will always be need, and his genius and his skill will ever give him prominence in the profession and before the public. His causes, moreover, will be great ones, for the petty disputes will be relegated to inferior tribunals and the weaker brethren. The time may come when the best reward of his forensic triumphs will be a trial in the more remunerative and less strenuous side of professional life.

Practice, so dear to the old school, and so exalted by the opponents of a systematic legal education, will be in the hands of subordinate specialists and its complexities and technicalities will yield to the business spirit, and be swept away by enlightened legislation. The place of the law student in the new order it is hard to define. Already, the junior partner and the office staff have occupied his ancient field, and it is abundantly clear that the training of his fathers is no longer available—that the student of the law must more than ever depend on academic instruction for his professional education. How then can a student of the University best prepare himself for such a calling? So much depends upon the individual, his temperament, his talents and his personal needs, that one may well despair of finding general propositions of universal application. What is termed the social life—the life beyond the class-rooms and the examination roll—is of peculiar value to the law student. He should take his part in the executive work of the college societies, and make the most of every chance to acquire facility in debate and in expressing his views upon the topics that engage the attention of the student world. He should learn to think upon his feet, to tell what he thinks in a forcible

way, and to keep his head and his temper. It will be helpful to him in the abrupt and trying change from the dignity of his senior year if he has accustomed himself to a certain amount of routine in his daily life at the University. The average Graduate need not fear "mazes of the law," but some of us have found it difficult to obtain the necessary amount of the system and business routine which endear the office boy to his admirers.

A general education is desirable; a logical mind, precision of thought, and the power to make proper use of books and facts are indispensable.

Whatever course will furnish these essentials is the course the student should pursue. With due allowance for the merits of the general course, one looks to the honor lists for the thorough student, and thoroughness is an indispensable part of the good lawyer's equipment. A "sloppy" lawyer (the phrase is not mine), is a poor lawyer, and somewhere this side of success in the legal profession the student must acquire thoroughness and accuracy in all he does.

It is not well to emphasize the differences between the departments in the honor work. Philosophy and mathematics have obvious excellences in their mental training; no course is without them; but, under normal conditions, political science is the best training for the law. The economic work will be of service in the years to come; there are other useful features—history, the essays and an attractive list from the general course. The legal subjects have a direct and a most useful relation to his professional studies. All authorities upon the much canvassed topic of legal education are at one as to the value of the academical subjects as part of a lawyer's training.

In a portion of the course the student is introduced to legal methods; in Roman law and jurisprudence he is concerned with topics of an intrinsic value which cannot be too strongly urged. That it invites the student to enter the faculty of law and complete his LL.B. is a further advantage of the Political Science course. I do not hesitate to recommend the LL.B. curriculum as a useful course of reading in connection with the work prescribed for call to the bar. The requirement of a satisfactory thesis has materially strengthened the Faculty and added to the value of the degree.



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