

without having very fully and carefully studied his brief; and I think our talk tonight would not be without its value if it would do something to disabuse the public mind of the idea that advocacy is a sort of tour de force in which a man, under some sudden inspiration, whether by the superior or the inferior deities, dashes in, and, relying upon the divine afflatus, delivers himself of some overwhelming argument, couched in language of the most elaborate rhetoric, and thereby proves that the worse is the better reason. It is not true at all. I do not believe that there is any great profession in which honourable success is attained without unremitting labour. The old definition that genius was an infinite capacity for taking pains is open perhaps to the objection that genius is so rare a quality that no analysis will discover how to attain it; but that no man unless he is prepared to devote everything that he has in can attain a great position in our profession of the law his powers of mind and concentration upon the work he has to do and the preparation for the case he has to argue, is, I am convinced, the experience of all those who have tried this strenuous competition, and all doctrines to the contrary are quite unfounded.

It was Plutarch, I think, who said, in his account of Demosthenes, that when Demosthenes was asked what was the first and most important thing in oratory Demosthenes replied, "Action." And when he was asked what was the second most important thing Demosthenes again said "Action." And when he was asked what was the third most important thing Demosthenes again said "Action." Well, I have often wondered how Demosthenes ever came to talk such nonsense; but perhaps the explanation is that somebody has misunderstood Demosthenes, and that when he spoke of action he must really have referred to the necessity of unremitting and continuous work.

Let me for instance remind you of an incident in the life of a great lawyer, Charles Bowen. Charles Bowen was one of the two juniors in the famous Tichborne litigation. Mr. J. C. Matthew was the other, who was afterwards Lord Justice Matthew and a very distinguished and powerful commercial judge in England. The Tichborne litigation was a case in which the plaintiff's cross-examination lasted