

ceedings in the Federal Reporter, and then Balzac's story of the downfall of *César Birotteau*. The living side of the rules of law is often to be found in fiction alone.

But there is a further service, and a higher one, to be rendered to the lawyer by literature. For literature, and especially the novel, is a catalogue of life's characters. And human nature is what the lawyer *must* know. He must deal understandingly with its types, its motives. These he cannot find—all of them—close around him; life is not long enough, the variety is not broad enough for him to learn them by personal experience before he needs to use them. For this learning, then, he must go to fiction, which is the gallery of life's portraits. When Balzac's great design dawned on him, to form a complete series of characters and motives, he conceived his novels as conveying just such learning. He even enumerated the total number of characters. His task was, he says:—

“To paint the three or four thousand salient figures of an epoch—for that is about the number of types presented by the generation of which this human comedy is the contemporary and the exponent, this number of figures, of characters, this multitude of portraits, needed frames. Out of this necessarily grew the classification of my work into scenes. Under these heads I have classed all those studies of manners and morals which form the general history of society If the meaning of my work is understood, my readers will see that I give to the recurring events of daily life (secret or manifest), and to actions of individuals, with their hidden springs and motives, as much importance as the historian bestows on the public life of a nation.”

In this view, the work of the novelist is to provide a museum of human characters, traits and motives—just as we might go to a museum of zoology to observe an animal which we desired to understand but had never yet seen alive; this was Balzac's idea:—

“There have always been, and always will be, social species, just as there are zoological species. If Buffon achieved a great work when he put together in one book the whole scheme of