

of social science are eminently well fitted at once to train and develop the powers of the student and to furnish him with a fund of ideas of the utmost importance, considered in themselves.

But it is in the training which it would afford to students whose ultimate profession was to be that of the law that a course of social science would prove most useful.

Let me endeavor to describe to you for one moment the position in which a law student at the present time finds himself. I mean the average law student who goes through a university course. He goes to the university with no very distinct idea of the subjects that will occupy his attention when he ultimately reaches his profession. He finds there, if he is ambitious, that there lies before him the opportunity of distinguishing himself in classics, mathematics, in science, in modern languages, or in metaphysics. To such one of those departments as he finds most congenial to his tastes he devotes his special attention, and at the end of four years receives his degree, with honors, and goes forth with a full knowledge, according to the latest theory, of the best means of blow-pipe analysis, or of the last developments in the method of the calculus, of the rules by which the placing of the accent on the anti-penult is governed, or of the latest and most approved theory of morals. He is then, at the end of his course, transplanted to a field of entirely new conceptions, and he devotes himself to a technical course, gathering ideas, in the best way he can, the principles of English law from the disjointed, disconnected, ill-assorted materials which are, as it were, thrown at his head. Or, rather, he devotes some part of his time to this task, and a much greater part to the acquirement of practical routine; to learning the whims and foibles of the law officers with whom it is his duty to transact business; of the quips and quirks of the profession; of the *modus operandi*. And he enters his profession not knowing in what way the conception of law in its technical sense is related to other conceptions of law; what are the essential elements of law, analytically considered; what are its subdivisions; how English law has developed into its present form; what are the