

Court he works miracles and compels agreement. The truth about the matter is that a lawyer is a very plain matter-of-fact, hard-working person, who devotes long hours in private to preparing what may not show for very much in public; and I say with great boldness to you that a lawyer is neither so unscrupulous nor so ingenious as some people make out—at any rate, I make bold to say that we know of other lawyers who are neither as unscrupulous nor as ingenious as some people suppose.

We lawyers "conscious as we are of one another's shortcomings" are prepared to deny the popular description of the character of the advocate's art, and I stand here tonight to contend on behalf of our lawyers' craft that just as it is true there is no royal road to success or fame without unremitting labour, so on the other hand, it is a vocation which calls for, and which does not call in vain for, the nicest sense of honour and the strictest devotion to justice. (Hear, hear, and applause.) Therefore it is as a lawyer who is proud of his profession, who believes it is a great and necessary calling, which contributes much to social justice and is essential for the progress of society, that I invite you to consider for a few moments some characteristics of the vocation of an advocate.

And first, ladies and gentlemen, allow me on behalf of the practising members of the profession to get rid of one antiquated fallacy. It is astonishing what a number of people believe that as indeed somebody once said, that the bar is not a bed of roses, for it is either all bed and no roses, or else it is all roses and no bed. I for my part find it very difficult to believe some of the stories that are told of the uninterrupted and continuous labour, hour after hour, night and day, which has been undertaken in the pursuit of our profession by some distinguished advocates in the past. I have been assured, however, for example, by the son of a former Lord Chancellor, that when his father was at the Bar he never went to bed for a week. (Laughter.) Well, that is hearsay evidence.

I have heard a successful English barrister declare that there are only two things needed for success at the English bar; the first of them is a good clerk, and the second is a good digestion. (Laughter.) But I happen to know that that particular member of the bar never argues a case