

increase of material wealth, and the prosperity and happiness which, among a free and intelligent people, are the results of wealth. To be told that with the increase of population and of wealth the profession of the law has also increased, will not at all surprise the student of history. The struggles of the profession have been in this country the struggles of the people in miniature ; so the increase and prosperity of the one has reflected the same desirable qualities in the other : the one law of nature governs both, and is supported by well-understood rules of political economy.

The learned professions are as much a necessity to a civilized people as the more stern and less polished occupations of tradesmen and mechanics. The profession of the law, though generally more carpied at, than either that of divinity or of medicine, is in its sphere as useful as either to the well-being of modern society. It has always been found, that when a people become numerous, all having wants of various kinds to be supplied, it is the interest of the whole community, and of each member of it, to have a division of labour. If any man in the social state were to be his own lawyer, his own doctor, and his own clothier, it does not require much discrimination to see that his estate, his life, and his comfort, would be all less effectually served than if he were himself to apply his attention to some one calling, and, when necessary, summon the assistance of others, more skilful than himself in other callings.

It is a wise rule that all men must obey the law ; and it is a maxim, that ignorance of the law shall excuse no one who infringes its commands. Thus all men are bound to know the law and obey it, though some men only do really understand it. Paradoxical as this may appear to the theorist, it is still not the less both right and wise in practice. Those who view society, as organized in modern times, and see in it numberless conflicting interests, warring with each other, and yet all claiming its protection, must acknowledge the necessity of a vast accumulation of law, and of trained intelligence to interpret and apply it. The theorist who, thinking that the principles of justice being few, are easily understood, and can be easily administered, finds himself opposed to the experience of