

most accomplished teachers of law in England have seen with admiration and with something like envy the vantage-ground that has been reached here. We must not be wanting to the position in which we find ourselves. Especially we must not be content with a mere lip service, with merely tagging our law schools with the name of a university, while they lack entirely the university spirit and character. What, then, does our undertaking involve, and that conception of the study of our English system of law, which, in Blackstone's phrase, 'extends the pomeria of university learning and adopts this new tribe of citizens within these philosophical walls?' It means this, that our law must be studied and taught as other great sciences are studied and taught at the universities, as deeply, by like methods, and with as thorough a concentration and lifelong devotion of all the powers of a learned and studious faculty. If our law be not a science worthy and requiring to be thus studied and thus taught, then, as a distinguished lawyer has remarked, 'A university will best consult its own dignity in declining to teach it.' This is the plough to which our ancestors here in America set their hand, and to which we have set ours; and we must see to it that the furrow is handsomely turned.

But who is there, I may be asked, to study law in this way? Who is to have the time for it and the opportunity? Let me ask a question in return, and answer it. Who is it that studies the natural or physical sciences, engineering, philology, history, theology, or medical science in this way? First of all, those who for any reason propose to master these subjects, to make true and exact statements of them, and to carry forward in these regions the limits of human knowledge; and especially the teachers of these things. Second, not in so great a degree, but each as far as he may, the leaders in the practical application of these branches of knowledge to human affairs. Third, in a still less degree, yet in some degree, all practitioners of these subjects, if I may use that phrase, who wish to understand their business, and to do it thoroughly well.

Precisely the same thing is true in law as in these or any other of the great parts of human knowledge. In all it is alike beneficial and alike necessary for the vigorous and fruitful development of the subject, for the best performance of the everyday work of the calling to which they relate, and for the best carry-