

Solicitor-General of England, in writing to me on the subject recently, said the essence of the matter might be summed up in a very few words: "Every lawyer ought to be a gentleman, and ought to do only what is right and honest; if he does not, other men should have nothing to do with him." That position of the bar is strengthened by this, that the etiquette of the bar is absolutely in the hands of the bar circuits and attorney-general, and that of the solicitors in the hands of the Incorporated Law Society; so that any solicitor who is guilty of an offence, whether as a lawyer or as a gentleman, can be, and from time to time is, not only temporarily suspended, but deprived of the right to practise at all. In a case tried last July in England, a solicitor in a certain town had been the proprietor of a house used for an immoral purpose, of which he received the rent. That was considered a stain upon his character as a gentleman, and for that he was suspended from the roll and excluded from practice. So that we have at least the example of the legal profession, who have a code even stricter than ours, in insisting upon a high standard of honorable conduct in the profession.

Legal etiquette prescribes certain technical acts which a lawyer must not do. An eminent American lawyer, whom I had the pleasure of meeting, mentioned to me, for example, that he may not conduct a "speculative suit;" that is, he may not conduct a suit in which his pay is to depend on the success of the suit—a palpable restriction of his liberty. Liberty is a blessed word, but compulsion is, under certain circumstances, often a more blessed word. The reason for this rule is, that if a lawyer undertakes such a suit he becomes personally and financially interested in the result, and may be tempted not to give the court all the aid which is his duty, or may in the end lose the relations of harmony and respect which are indispensable between the court and the lawyers, who are officers of the court and are bound to help Justice to duly balance its scales.

In the same way "champerty" is a legal offence. So, too, no respectable lawyer will give separate advice upon a case