

ful faculty for getting twisted about, and once they get a sufficient twist, there is no way of getting them straightened out except by a judgment of the court often against you. Then, if the mind is biased at all, and if the lawyer takes the part of his client in a personal sense, he is at once seized with the same obliquity of vision that the client has. He begins to look at things from an entirely wrong focus, and loses in the course of a very short time all sense of proportion, the facts become distorted in their relation to each other and to the real issue between the parties, until he, the lawyer, is in no higher, no better and no safer position than the client himself. Indeed, the solicitor becomes, to all intents and purposes, the client. As a rule, what do we all do? I venture to say in nine cases out of ten, we start to see what the facts are to substantiate the client's story, not what the facts are irrespective of the client's story, but what facts there are that will corroborate our client, the plaintiff or defendant in his action, and then we begin to look up the law. But, we do not look up the law as to what it really is, as a rule, but we hunt through our books from one end of the reports to the other for the purpose of finding cases that will apply in support of the case in hand, not what the law is, but how far the law we are looking for will support our contention. Then, we are influenced, by the one-sided story. More or less, every man is so influenced, but we have only half the story, and there is the principal difficulty. Unless we can eliminate these conditions, unless we can get the mental attitude along a different line, or placed in a different balance, we fail mentally and practically in our judgment, no matter what our ability may be as lawyers. We fail to grasp the whole situation of the case. The absolutely essential and necessary element in the conduct of a case is to know the general situation. Now, the opposite course is the right one, and that is, first of all to find out what is against us, not so much what is in our favour, our client will supply that if he has any intelligence, but what is there in the future proceeding that is going to turn up against our contention—can we surmise it; can we guess from the cir-