

rivalry between them, and the manner of the elder member of the bar was far from being pleasant or reassuring. The young man had never heard of a demurrer in his life, and he had not the faintest idea of what it was. In his distress he turned to the writer and asked him what to do. I promptly informed him that he should ask the court to give until the next morning to prepare his defence to the demurrer, which request the court granted. After the court had adjourned, the young man asked the writer if a demurrer could be considered a personal affront, and if so, he well knew what course to follow. The humor of the situation immediately seized upon and impressed the writer, and he invited the young man to his office, and informed him that a demurrer was a very distressing incident in legal proceedings; that it admitted all the allegations of the plaintiff, but at the same time stated that they were so chaffy, so light, and of such little weight, that they entitled the defendant to a judgment for costs; that in the colonial days of Virginia there was a well settled tradition that demurrers were considered personal affronts, and that it might be the case now, but I rather thought not; but I would advise him to consult an old and eminent member of the bar, since that time one of the governors of Virginia, and he could safely follow his advice. That counsel caught on to the joke and reaffirmed my advice. When the court opened next morning there was profound silence, when the young man straightened up to his full and enormous height, and in a stentorian but musical voice commenced as follows:—

“ May it please the court: I am a young man without experience in my chosen profession, and with but little legal learning. It may be that the statement of the cause of action in this case is inartificial and improper, but I rely on the great Virginia statute of Jeoffails, which is the palladium of the legal rights of the Virginia citizen. That noble statute says, if the case, however badly stated, shows enough for the court to arrive at the true merits of the cause, it is sufficient. Sir, I rely on that noble and commanding statute, made, I am sure, for such cases as this, and to prevent injustice. As to the demurrer, I hurl back the insinuation contained in it, that I have stated my cause of action so badly that, admit all I have stated, there is no ground for the action, with scorn and contempt, and if need be with defiance. Sir, I rely on this court to carry out the great principles of eternal justice, and I hope it will rise equal to the occasion. I do not