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## THE AMERICAN TAILORS

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### FOR STUDENTS OF LAW

#### Facts About the Profession for Those Who Wish to Enter.

#### Qualifications Required by the Student—His Prospect of Success in Country and Town.

James W. Gerard, LL. D., in the Independent.

Not to those who live in cities, where law schools give every facility for the study of law, is this article addressed; but rather to those who, living on lonely farms and in small towns, feel some inclination to enter upon the most difficult of professions. The youth whose poverty seems a heavy handicap should not despair of winning his way at the bar; he already possesses the sharpest spur of success, that of necessity.

Erskine, who did not begin the study of the law until he was twenty-five years of age, and afterward became Lord Chancellor, gives us a forcible instance of necessity as a stimulus, and of the power of determination to overcome obstacles. In addressing the court for the first time he felt embarrassed, depressed and diffident; but gradually assumed courage as he imagined his wife and children, then in distress, tugging at his robe and telling him to remember them.

Lord Eldon, Chancellor of England, said that "every young lawyer ought to be half starved. It has a fine effect."

Two great systems of law are in use in the civilized world; one in use on the continent of Europe and in countries settled by colonists from that continent. This system is derived from the Roman, or civil law of the Roman empire, and is not of immediate interest to young law students in this country; the State of Louisiana alone, formerly under Spanish and French rule, follows the civil law. The second great system of law is that in use in England and in the United States, and is known as the common law. This system of law, consisting of the ancient customs of the inhabitants of England, is not reduced to the form of an exact code, but is found in the treatise of men learned in the law and in judicial decisions. In England this system has undergone many changes, necessitated by the altered conditions of modern times and the requirements of progressive civilization, and has been much modified by the statutes enacted by Parliament. Although the Parliament has the right to change the whole system of law, it has left the common law unchanged, except when pressing needs and changed conditions required a divergence from its rules. The English colonists who settled in this country brought with them so much of this common law of England, modified by the statutes passed in Parliament, as was adapted to their needs and conditions.

The commentaries of Blackstone in England and of Kent in this country on the common law and Constitution of their respective countries are the best legal books to be read by the law student. The student who has read and digested either of those books possesses a good knowledge of the principles of law, of course, the statutes (laws passed by the Legislature) and the practice of the courts differ in each State, although there is a general similitude between them. General Butler attributed his first success at the bar to knowledge gained by a careful perusal of Blackstone's commentaries; and no lawyer has probably attained success who has not given years to the reading of law of that general character. Rufus Choate used to study until 2 o'clock in the morning, and Blackstone and Kent were his light reading; and Erskine, a celebrated English barrister, made a careful digest of every book and case he read.

The knowledge gained from study is not all that is necessary; a lawyer must possess some knowledge of human nature, and at least the power of clothing his thoughts in forcible and appropriate language. The want of this latter power is illustrated in the case of a young lawyer who stood up in court and stammered: "May it please the court—my—my—may it please—my—un-

fortunate—unfortunate—client"—He was rather harshly but humorously interrupted by the judge, who said: "So far as you have gone, Mr. Green, the court is entirely with you."

The lawyer should acquire such a dexterity of tongue that he can hold his tongue or drone out his remarks in wandering speech, otherwise he may be placed in the position of the English barrister who droned to sleep a boy sitting in the courthouse window. The boy fell to the ground, whereupon the tiresome lawyer was indicted by some wag, for "manslaughter, committed with long, dull instrument of no value whatever; to wit, a speech."

Success in the profession of the law, as in that of arms, not infrequently is owed to chance; but chance only presents the opportunity which the individual must be intelligent enough to seize and turn to advantage. Lord Eldon, when a struggling barrister, was given a guinea fee merely to sign a case for a party supposed to have no interest in the decision; nevertheless he read all the papers, and came to the conclusion that his client had a right to the property involved; his client gave him a reluctant permission to argue the case, saying that he would give him a guinea if he won. Lord Eldon, nevertheless, persevered, won the case, and laid the foundation for his greatness as a lawyer, and in years, to be made Chancellor of England.

**WHAT A LAWYER MUST KNOW.**

A knowledge of history is necessary to the student of law, for without such knowledge it is impossible to trace the development of law and to understand clearly the reasons for the changes that have taken place in this development. The law of England, whence we derive our law, was influenced by the needs of the feudal system; and though the feudal system has passed away, its influence remains, and a knowledge of its principles is absolutely necessary to the lawyer who wishes to do a thorough acquaintance with the law of real property.

Much of the law of Admiralty, that branch of the law which deals with those "who go down to the sea in ships," is founded on the customs in use among the merchants of Rhodus, about 700 years ago, and the laws of Oleron, promulgated by Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine; and those of Wisligris, a king of the Danes, in the beginning of the fourteenth century, are often quoted in sea cases. This branch of the law is derived from the custom of the sea, and is free from the turmoil and irritation of other branches of the profession, and is a desirable knowledge, and its rules and technical terms. This branch of study may be begun quite early, and it is desirable to combine practice and instruction.

Of interest is the history of law itself. The Englishman accused of murder who, as late as the year 1317, threw down his gauntlet in open combat and demand a trial of his cause by the wager of battle. The startled judges put their heads together and decided that under the law, the man had a right to this ancient and barbarous method of trial. As the accused, he declined the fight, and the supposed murderer went free.

The ancient custom of deciding cases by a personal fight was in full force, monks and women being incapable of fighting, and the law was made for champions. In the old manuscripts interesting accounts are to be found of the champions who were kept as regular retainers at the various monasteries; and the length of time now required to bring an action to trial may be derived from the custom of allowing these champions a chance to get into training before the appointed day of battle.

An excellent preparation for the study of law is the study of geometry. The student of geometry learns to arrange his arguments in logical order, to explain clearly and concisely, and to pass to no new argument until the preceding one on which it is founded is fully proved. Many lawyers built up an elaborate mass of arguments leading to the point they wish to prove, only to see the whole fabric fall because they have omitted to establish one of the points on which their case depends.

Political economy is useful in training the brain, as well as a most interesting study, and one with which the politician must be well acquainted. The study of logic and frequent debates are also of great need for forensic success. By open debates the young man acquires confidence in himself, he becomes accustomed to the sound of his own voice, he learns to think on his legs, and gradually natural diffidence is overcome. There are no qualifications more necessary for a forensic practitioner than coolness, presence of mind and self-confidence.

In the large cities lawyers evince a tendency to devote themselves to particular branches of the profession. These branches

may be roughly divided as follows: real estate law, the law of corporations, criminal law, the law as practiced in the courts of equity, and the law of probate, and the law of wills and the settlement and care of estates, admiralty law, which relates to collisions at sea, marine insurance, etc. There is also insurance and patent law. The most lucrative branches of the law in these modern days are patent law and the law relating to corporations and practice in the surrogate's courts; young lawyers who desire to make money having been often advised to "go to work with a will." To be a patent lawyer a general knowledge of at least mechanics, chemistry and other branches of natural philosophy is requisite.

**GENERAL PRACTITIONERS.**

Country lawyers, of course, having a varied practice, do not, as a rule, make a specialty of one branch of the law. Let us take the case of a young man living on a farm or in a village who wishes to become a lawyer. All the States require the applicant to pass an examination and to be over twenty-one years of age, and many States require a clerkship to be served in the office of some lawyer.

As a rule, those serving such clerkships are not paid, although in the large cities they sometimes receive as much as \$10 or \$12 a week. The aspirant, therefore, should commence his period of clerkship in such lines as he is able to attend. Necessary books he should be able to borrow from the lawyer. Much of his study for admission to the bar will have to be done at home, if he is studying at an academy or high school, he could attend the law office during his free hours. The examinations for admission to the bar are usually quite easy. A young man who, studying for three hours each day or evening during a period of several months, can learn enough law to pass a successful examination for admission to the bar of any of the States, had better give up all idea of becoming a lawyer.

Once admitted, the young lawyer may not be best at one of the cities, or to seek his fortune in the large cities. In the country and small towns the salary paid to the beginner is Rhodus, being usually, indeed, it is possible to obtain a situation as law clerk. On the other hand, the living is cheaper, and the best of the law is to be had. The country lawyer has more time for study, and can devote many hours to his friends, who may bring him business. The country lawyer has more time to study, and can devote many hours to his friends, who may bring him business. The country lawyer has more time to study, and can devote many hours to his friends, who may bring him business.

In the cities, on the other hand, clerkships paying about \$15 a week can be obtained, and the subsequent advancement depends upon himself.

The hours in the city offices are usually from 9 to half past 5 or 6. The clerk learns much practical law, but must devote many evenings to study, if he expects to treat the principles of law. The rewards of the city lawyer are great. A large number of lawyers in New York city make over \$25,000 a year, and to get this return they have risked no capital. The successful business man works as hard as the successful lawyer, but to obtain an income equal to that of the lawyer he has had to tie his capital and often run the chance of bankruptcy or total ruin. The number of lawyers in the commercial cities is large, but so is the volume of legal business. The transfers of real estate, mortgaging real property, the formation of partnerships, corporations and formation of partnerships, drafting of railroad mortgages and agreements, wills may be made in the city. There are a few instances of the affairs in which the supervision of a lawyer is required, although there is no controversy to be tried in a court. As a rule, each newspaper of importance has a legal salaries and to defend its libel suits and attend to its contracts and other legal business, and banks and corporations furnish a great volume of business.

It is true that a young and unknown lawyer, hanging out his banner in a city like New York, might wait a long time for business; but the large law offices always offer a chance to the bright young lawyer who is not afraid of work and who, by making his services indispensable to his employers, can provide for his own success. It is a noteworthy fact that hardly one lawyer of prominence in New York is a native of that city, and most of the successful lawyers began life without money or friends to help them on. New England and western New York furnishing a majority of the lawyers of the city.

It is a young man contemplating the profession of the law may practically begin his legal studies at school, by giving his attention to a course of reading, to study and methods that will be a preparatory introduction and basis for his legal education. In conclusion let the student remember that "there is always room at the top."

### JOSIAH'S PIE COUNTER.

#### A Texan Hoodwinked Mr. Quincy and His Share.

Washington Special.

The brief experience of Hon. Josiah Quincy, of Massachusetts, as Assistant Secretary of State and general dispenser of consulates, was not without incidents, many of which have been given to the public.

But there is one case which even Mr. Quincy, perhaps, cannot explain. Among the early applications for a consulate was a French citizen of Texas named Du Bellet. He got his papers through and even had his commission issued, when very serious charges were filed against him.

It was alleged that Mr. Du Bellet had been too frisky with the fair sex; that he had not been faithful to his marital vows and had wandered from his family hearthstone in a moral Texas town and taken up with a fair maiden whom he had left desolate.

Upon being apprised of these charges the President ordered the commission held up. Du Bellet was communicated with under the frank of the State department and commended to his own care. He remained quiet and ignored all such demands. Secretary Gresham, who had been apprised of the case, personally held back the commission and ordered that when Du Bellet presented himself he should be ordered before the President.

Meantime Du Bellet came to Washington and concealed himself at a cheap hotel. He avoided Secretary Gresham, and waited the return of Assistant Secretary Quincy, who was then absent upon his return from the latter. Du Bellet presented himself, and by some sort of representation, obtained a hearing before the President. He refused to believe it and assumed that Du Bellet had decided to abandon the more care exercised and some falling off in the Secretary was dumbfounded a few days later to hear that Du Bellet's name had been confirmed.

From the first week of the installation and aged, and the dog used to lead him about. One night, after a hard day's work, the old man and his faithful companion lay down to sleep, with the organ beside them. They slept soundly, and when they awoke the organ was gone. They were in despair. Their means of earning a living were gone. But the dog led the old man through the streets where he had been accustomed to play, and the dog used to lead him about. One night, after a hard day's work, the old man and his faithful companion lay down to sleep, with the organ beside them. They slept soundly, and when they awoke the organ was gone. They were in despair. Their means of earning a living were gone. But the dog led the old man through the streets where he had been accustomed to play, and the dog used to lead him about.

### GAS ASPHYXATION.

#### The Victims Not Always Genuines Who Blow Out the Gas.

New York Evening Post.

An unusual number of deaths by gas asphyxiation have occurred in Boston recently. A Commissioner Barker has said that many of them are accidental. "Frequently," he says, "a draft coming into a sleeping room will pass through out of a window near a gas jet, and easily put out a flame. It is bad stuff to fool with. The trouble is, people do not half understand how dangerous it is. They do not know they will never fall asleep with it burning in the room." Dr. Draper, a medical examiner of water gas, which is seven times as poisonous as the ordinary gas, has given much attention to the subject. He says: "As much as possible, in a highly populated vein than a medical treatise—should be printed regarding the effects of water gas, which is seven times as poisonous as the ordinary gas. If the public understood it there would be more care exercised and some falling off in cases of death would surely be the result. The accidental deaths would certainly be decreased, and those who had the care of travelers or the sick would be on the lookout for people with suicidal tendencies. The water gas is such a terribly malodorous extract that it would seem, with a little watchful care, its escape could be more easily detected than it seems to be where people inhale it." The increase in deaths from inhaling gas in the year 1892 in Boston was extraordinary. In the eleven months from January to December there were fourteen deaths, ten reported as suicides, four as accidents. In fifteen years there had been but twice as many deaths as in 1892 alone, but the proportion of suicides had been so much less than the accidents that altogether for the fifteen years there are about as many deaths due to one as the other. A New Hampshire man, writing to a Boston paper, relates the following experience, which speaks for itself: "About two years ago I stopped at a hotel in New England which is well known, but I have given it a wide berth since. The reason is this: I turned out the light and retired. For some reason I did not fall asleep, and after awhile

### LOUDEST NOISE EVER HEARD.

#### It Issued from a Volcano and Was Heard 1,700 Miles Away.

Youth's Companion.

No thunder from the skies was ever accompanied with a roar of such vehemence as that which issued from the throat of the great volcano in Krakatoa, an islet lying in the Straits of Sunda, between Sumatra and Java, at 10 o'clock on Monday morning, Aug. 27, 1883. As that dreadful Sunday night wore on the noise increased in intensity and frequency. The explosion succeeded each other so rapidly that a continuous roar seemed to issue from the island. The critical moment was now approaching, and the outbreak was preparing for a majestic culmination.

### TWO MUSICAL DOGS.

#### One Criticized an Orchestra and the Other Identified a Hand Organ.

Manchester Times.

A wonderful story of a French musical craze is related by persons who profess to have been acquainted with him, and who have seen him in attendance on musical performances. He was a dog, and his name in public was Parade; whether he had a different name at home was never known. At the beginning of the French revolution he went every day to the military parade in front of the Tuilleries Palace. He marched with the musicians, barked with them, listened knowingly to their performances, and, after the parade, disappeared, to reappear promptly at parade time the next day. Gradually the musicians became attached to this devoted listener. They named him Parade, and one of another of them always invited him to dinner. He accepted the invitation, and was a pleasant guest. He was interested in the music, and always attended the theater, where he seated himself calmly in the corner of the orchestra and listened critically to the music. If a new piece was played he noticed it instantly and paid the strictest attention. If the piece had the melodious passages he showed his joy to the best of his doggie ability; but if the piece was ordinary and uninteresting he yawned, after which he barked and unmistakably expressed his disapproval.

Another very curious story of a canine musical ear is told of a London organ-grinder's dog. The organ-grinder was blind and aged, and the dog used to lead him about. One night, after a hard day's work, the old man and his faithful companion lay down to sleep, with the organ beside them. They slept soundly, and when they awoke the organ was gone. They were in despair. Their means of earning a living were gone. But the dog led the old man through the streets where he had been accustomed to play, and the dog used to lead him about.

### Free Press.

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The old subscriber had just laid a bushel of fall apples on the editor's desk and the editor was asking him about the crops. "Did you read my editorial in the last issue on the tariff?" inquired the editor with pride.

"How do your neighbors like the Vindictive?" asked.

"First rate, ez ez ez I've heard," responded the visitor sincerely.

"You don't seem to be particularly interested in the important issues of the day," ventured the editor, more in pity than in anger.

"Oh, yes I do," protested the visitor; "I read that remedy you give for hog cholera, and it's the best I ever tried," and the editor felt better.

### A Well of Vinegar.

#### A Well of Vinegar.

Kansas City Star.

A natural well of vinegar was something which, until last week, even the famous soil of southwest Missouri was thought incapable of producing. When it is reported that a Vernon county sorghum factory had their plant destroyed by fire they were naturally put out, but the molasses ran into a cistern of water, and they are now dipping out vinegar by the hundred barrels as a result of fermentation. This is an evidence that nothing useful can go to waste when planted in Missouri soil, and shows that even nature is assuming social qualities in contemplation of the United States Senate.

### Not That Kind.

#### Not That Kind.

Detroit Free Press.

He had rung up the central office and asked for Mr. Pretty soon some one answered.

"Hello, there?" he called, "is that you?"

"Who's that?" came the inquiry.

"It's me."

"Who's me?"

"Ah, that's you."

"No, it's I."

"That's all right," he called pleasantly, "I wanted to guess the central office must have mistaken me for a silver Senator. Good-bye," and he tried again.

### Comparatively Genuine.

#### Comparatively Genuine.

Texas Sitings.

The price of this Rembrandt is \$10,000, and this other Rembrandt is only \$5,000. What makes such a difference in the price? remarked Peter Amersdam to the proprietor of a Harlem art store. "The \$10,000 one is much more genuine than the other."

### A One-Sided Virtue.

#### A One-Sided Virtue.

Life.

"By Jove! She turned her back when she saw us coming."

"Yes, but she has just come out and is modest and retiring."

"Gad! That's more than you can say of her back!"