I am not an accomplished lawyer. I find quite as much material for a lecture, in those points wherein I have failed, as in those wherein I have been moderately successful.

The leading rule for the lawyer, as for the man of every other calling, is diligence. Leave nothing for to-morrow, which can be done to-day. Never let your correspondence fall behind. Whatever piece of business you have in hand, before stopping, do all the labor pertaining to it, which can then be done. When you bring a common law suit, if you have the facts for doing so, write the declaration at once. If a law point be involved, examine the books, and note the authority you rely on, upon the declaration itself, where you can find it when wanted. The same of defences and pleas. In business not likely to be litigated — ordinary collection cases, foreclosures, partitions, and the like, — make all examination and note thereof, and even draft orders and decrees in advance. This course has a twofold advantage; it avoids omissions and neglect, saves your labor when once done, performs the labor out of court when you have leisure, rather than in court, when you have not. Extemporaneous speaking should be practiced and cultivated. It is the lawyer's avenue to the public. However able and faithful he may be in other respects, people are slow to bring him business, if he can not make a speech. And yet there is not a more fatal snare to young lawyers, than relying too much on speech-making. If any one, upon the new power of speaking, shall claim an exemption from the drudgery of the law, his case is a failure in advance.

Never encourage litigation. Persuade your neighbors to compromise whenever you can. Point out to them how the nominal winner is often a real loser, in fees, expenses, and waste of time. As a peace-maker, the lawyer has a fine opportunity of being a good man. There will still be business enough.

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