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THE CHARACTER OF A LAWYER

By JOSEPH SCOTT

My cordial greetings to "The Notre Dame Lawyer", and my best wishes to the undergraduates who may find in its pages encouragement in their professional ideals.

Speaking as a member of the legal fraternity, immersed in the hard driving practice of the profession, if I might venture a word of advice to the future lawyers of Notre Dame, it would be to develop character, even if it is at the expense of technical knowledge.

True it is that in most Bar Examinations of today the test for admission is very largely an intellectual one. Without being hypercritical with Boards of Examiners, I cannot refrain from expressing my regret that so much is dependent upon the mere "case" knowledge of the prospective lawyer, rather than upon those fundamental principles without which we can never maintain that professional standard which has made our calling one of the noblest of all vocations.

More than ever today the wide awake lawyer, particularly engaged as I happen to be in trial work, is looking around for young, cleancut, highminded, courageous lawyers. To those youngsters of Notre Dame who are in sympathy with such ideals, I urge upon them to stand fast to these standards.

The mere "bookworms" who will stay in libraries and "dig" into books to find precedents for their opinion, or for their particular side of the controversy, are too numerous, in my observation. After all, the higher vocation is to be an advocate, to stand with your clients behind you, and face even the wrath of a self-opinionated judge, or a bulldozing adversary, or the wild shrieks of popular clamor, or the ruthless attacks of the press, and still find your heart beating regularly and undaunted and unafraid when the odds are against you.

The mercenary side of the business world today is reaching into the professional ranks of the Bar and beclouding the vision of the men whose educational equipment ought to make them proof against such temptations. It must rest with such in-