

# YALE LAW JOURNAL

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WITH the present number the YALE LAW JOURNAL completes its first year. Enough has been done to justify the belief that it will widen the scope of the school; a strong and growing band of contributors have come to its support; many articles of permanent interest and value have been published. In some directions there is room for improvement,—more of the alumni might subscribe, for example. But one thing at a time. The first step has been to get the LAW JOURNAL well started on its way toward the future. This has been done with reasonable success, and with the warm encouragement of the graduates of the school. Sunny years of prosperity, we hope, lie hidden in that future for the Yale Law School. A new building soon to rise will make it seen as well as heard; if the JOURNAL aid in that prosperity in any degree it will have brought to the editors the only return they seek for their efforts. If it is to be permanently successful, the graduates of each class must keep up their subscriptions as they go out. It is to the alumni of the future, not of the past that the LAW JOURNAL appeals most strongly. Is it not worth while for each in this way to maintain his connection with the school? To say nothing of the practical value of the magazine, it is certain that we often appreciate too little and lose too quickly our connection and interests in these institutions of learning as we go out from them. Professional schools particularly are looked upon very much as a sale-shop of knowledge. Payment of tuition fees ought perhaps to be the beginning but certainly not the end of our interest in them. There is in reality nothing in the world which demands our loyalty and gratitude more than these centers of knowledge

with their clusters of distinguished men. They rescue from the drudgery of the past and perpetuate from age to age in every profession the noble standards and the rounded knowledge which make the dull details and toil of every occupation brilliant with the light of aspiration. And when that light is lost from any reason whatever, their highest usefulness to mankind dies with it.

Wm. P. Aiken.

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PROBABLY no class in the community suffers more intense mental anguish from the gratuitous good advice of their professional elders than the law student at the beginning of his professional career. The formula seems to be: age and a few scattered white hairs, *ergo*, the possession of all human knowledge and some divine. And yet there seems to be one topic, to the writer's thinking all important, upon which these self-imposed censors rarely touch; it is the *esprit de corps* of the profession. It is a melancholy but unfortunate truth that all lawyers are not gentlemen, and yet there is no walk in life wherein the highest instincts of perfect breeding and true manliness are more called for than in the hurrying rivalry and constant antagonisms of the working practitioner. The editors as they take up for the last time the stylus of admonition and the quill of legal reform would make an earnest appeal for a deep, true and consistent *esprit de corps* in our chosen profession. Remembering that this profession of ours is a much-maligned calling among the ignorant and the narrow, the object of much hatred among the unscrupulous and cunning, and much criticized of all men—each one of us ought to feel that he owes both himself and his brethren at the bar a solemn duty of absolute personal integrity and kindly sympathy and courtesy to all. Is it too much then to ask of the class that goes out this year from the time-honored halls of this ancient and honored institution to take these few simple words as a personal burden, to show the profession that Yale men in the law, as Yale men everywhere, are scholarly gentlemen and men of practical culture. And even though there are no mottos hanging on our office walls to guide us, yet let us each so live his professional life that at its close an appreciative brotherhood can feelingly say, as was said of one of the world's great souls, now pleading at a grander bar, "He was, praise God, a gentleman."

R. T. Platt.