



1930

To a Young Lawyer

Joseph Story

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the courts hear new evidence and new facts. Certain lawyers will seek compensation cases as they formerly sought personal injury damage cases. The commissioners and referees, trained in this work, and hearing cases day after day, are better able to render fair decisions."

The amendments, as entered by the North Dakota House of Representatives, were, in large part, eliminated. We haven't seen the final draft, but believe that it will prove to be a fairly workable improvement on the present law.

TO A YOUNG LAWYER

Whene'er you speak, remember every cause
Stands not on eloquence, but most on laws.
Be brief, be pointed; let your matter stand
Lucid, in order, solid, and at hand;
Spend not your words on trifles, but condense;
Strike with a mass of thoughts, not drops of sense;
Press to the close with vigor, once begun,
And leave (how hard the task!), leave off, when done;
Who draws a labored length of reasoning out,
Puts straws in line for winds to whirl about;
Who draws a tedious tale of learning o'er,
Counts but the sands on ocean's boundless shore;
Victory in law is gained, as battle fought;
Not by the numbers, but the forces brought.
What boots success in skirmish or in fray,
If rout, or ruin, following, close the day?
What worth a hundred posts, maintained with skill,
If, these all held, the foe is victor still?
He who would win his cause, with power must frame
Points of support, and look with steady aim;
Attack the weak, defend the strong with art,
Strike but few blows, but strike them to the heart;
All scattered fires but end in smoke and noise,—
The scorn of men, the idle play of boys.
Keep, then, this first great precept, ever near:
Short be your speech, your matter strong and clear;
Earnest your manner, warm and rich your style,
Severe in taste, yet full of grace the while;
So you may reach the loftiest heights of fame,
And leave, when life is past, a deathless name.

—JOSEPH STORY.