The World

Editors' Rooms New York

July 14, 1925

Dear Sam:

I am sending you along a memorandum which came to me indirectly from Professor Woodruff of the Cornell Law School.

Yours,

Walter Lippmann

Samuel Rosensohn, Esq.,
27 William Street,
New York, N. Y.

Literature in the Legal Profession.

To the Editors of the N. Y. Express.

Your friend who prefaced Mr. Butler's admirable poem, "Nothing to Wear," published in your columns, with the subjoined remarks about literary lawyers, makes himself liable to misinterpretation. He says:—

"It would be well for the bar of this country if more of them would follow his laudable example. It is done in England, and many of the distinguished lawyers of that land have achieved great if not equal eminence in the fields of literature and of science; and we should not be ashamed to be their imitators in this respect, as we endeavor to rival them in professional excellence. It is a sad and degrading error to suppose that a refined, cultivated literary taste, and a love of science and the pursuit of it to reasonable extent, are inconsistent with the character of a sound, able and successful lawyer."

There are a large number of practising lawyers who deserve to stand in the same catalogue with Mr. Butler in the respect above alluded to. Our excellent Surrogate, Bradford, is author of an admirable history of American antiquities, and is a constant contributor to the Protestant Churchman. Judge Daly is a contributor to our magazine literature, and an industrious critic of German literature. Theodore Sedgwick's effusions appear weekly in an anonymous shape. James T. Brady writes vigorous political leaders and admirable lectures. W. M. Evarts is a polished scholar of high order, and contributes to the North American Review. D. D. Field variegates his street Commissioner fights with Editorials in the Post. The pleading treatise, by Geo. Van Santvoord, stands side by side, on legal shelves, with his Life of Sydney and his Biography of our Chief Justices. Our District Attorney, Oakey Hall, has published two volumes; has written for the stage, and is said to be an industrious *feuilletonist*. Joseph Blunt is a constant essayist for the press. Richard B. Kimball is the author of St. Leger, &c. Samuel B. Ruggles' pen is not more called on in legal arguments than in literary reflections. Luther R. Marsh is known by 'Putnam' and 'Hunt' and the 'New York Times.'—John C. Devereaux, Reporter to the Court of Claims, is a constant offerer to the Muses in print. Albert Matheus is a monthly contributor to 'Knickerbocker.' Gardiner Spring, Jr., has written two novels, and *yet* has a large practice! Maunsell B. Field has joined pens with G. P. R. James, and *yet* will search you a title without a flaw. Wm. C. Prime is a town celebrity with his 'Later Years,' and 'Tent Life,' and 'Boat Life.' C. N. Bovee is an active Attorney, but has recently issued 'Thoughts, Feelings and Fancies,' a very readable volume. Charles Edwards (one of the anti-Cunningham Counsel) is a poet of high order' and fine dramatic critic and general writer, as the 'Albion' knoweth. Jonas B. Phillips was a song writer for Russell, a farce writer for Burton, whilst Assistant District Attorney, and still is constant to the Muse Mr. Eager, of the law firm of Fancher & Eager, is a ripe scholar, as his 'History of Orange County' bears witness, and his partner fleshes his pen occasionally in the 'Home Journal.' E. Delafield Smith, of the law firm of Martin & Smith, writes most acceptable poetry.—And I might further continue this cursory catalogue if I sat down with the legal directory in my hand.—The New York Bar is not behind that of Boston in the number of its literary lawyers.

KENT COOPER.