Contributors to This Issue


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THE CORNELL LAW SCHOOL

Law Association Meeting in New York

The Law Association luncheon at the Cornell Club in New York City on January 21 during the annual meeting of the New York State Bar Association was attended by about 150 alumni of the Law School. Among those present were The Honorable Irving G. Hubbs '91, formerly Associate Judge of the New York Court of Appeals; The Honorable F. Walter Bliss '13, Justice of the Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court in the Third Judicial Department; The Honorable Henry J. Kimball '11, Justice of the New York Supreme Court in the Fifth Judicial District; and The Honorable Marvin R. Dye '17, of the New York Court of Claims.

The luncheon speakers were President Edmund E. Day, Dean Robert S. Stevens, who is on leave with the Office of Lend-Lease, Acting Dean Farnham '18, and Professor Lyman P. Wilson, President of the Association of American Law Schools. The Honorable William F. Bleakley '04, former Justice of the New York Supreme Court and who is now Moreland Act Commissioner investigating the administration of the Workmen's Compensation Act, served as toastmaster.

The Law Association elected Lawrence S. Hazard '22, as its representative on the Cornell Alumni Association Committee on Alumni Trustee Nominations, succeeding Alan H. Treman '21, whose term expires.

Arrangements for the luncheon were in charge of Alumni Trustee Mary H. Donlon '20, and Professor John W. MacDonald '25, Secretary-Treasurer of the Law Association.

Law School Registration

Forty students registered for the spring term which began February 28,
This enrollment is 20 per cent of normal. The following table shows the distribution among classes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Year</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Year</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Year</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Matriculants</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>28</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>40</td>
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</tbody>
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The LL.B degree was conferred upon one candidate in February.

Nominations for Alumni Trustee

Newton C. Farr '06, chairman of the Association's standing committee on Alumni Trustee nominations, has issued the following statement:

The Committee on Alumni Trustee Nominations, after giving careful consideration to the needs of the University in relation to the qualifications of a large group of alumni suggested to the committee by individuals and Clubs throughout the country, has endorsed the following four persons to be presented in the election to be held this spring:

William F. Bleakley '04, attorney, Yonkers.

Alice Blinn '17, associate editor, Ladies Home Journal, New York City.


George C. Brainard '11, president, General Fireproofing Co., Youngstown, Ohio.

These persons have been interviewed by their sponsors and have agreed to accept nominations. They are persons with records of achievement and with experience in their various lines of endeavor which can be of great value to the University.

The Committee on Alumni Trustee Nominations wishes to state that its policy is not to take a position with reference to the re-election of Alumni Trustees who are now on the Board. This should in no way compromise the availability of such Trustees for renomination by alumni. The committee understands that its function is to bring new desirable nominees into the field each year and to insure the presentation of a number of names among whom the alumni may make their choice.

The committee also wishes it to be clearly understood that it is not a nominating committee in the customary sense, and that the operation of the
committee does not contravene the right of any ten alumni to nominate any candidate of their choice.

This year the alumni are to elect two Trustees; the voters, therefore, will have an opportunity to make their choices from a well qualified list of candidates.

Interesting Gift to Law Library

A set of Lectures on Law delivered in 1806 by Tapping Reeve and taken down by a law student at the famous school at Litchfield, Conn., has lately come into possession of the Cornell Law School. Samuel Church was the student and his handwriting, despite the pressure of following a lecture, is as legible as his ink is indelible and his paper imperishable. Bound in solid leather, the notes run to 476 pages. They open with Municipal Law as distinguished from The Law of Nature, the Divine or Revealed Law, the Law of Nations. This material is directly from Blackstone's discussion "of the nature of laws in general." Reeve thus introduced his young men to the law through the same approach as did the Englishman, though Blackstone was educating the general public, as he says, in "the constitution and polity of their own country," while Reeve was educating lawyers.

Reeve's subsequent lectures are: Lex Mercatoria; Powers of Chancery; Contracts; Baron and Feme, i.e., Husband and Wife; Parent and Child; Guardian and Ward; Master and Servant; Executors and Administrators; Sheriffs; Real Property including Jointtenacy, (so spelled), Coparceny, Tenancy in Common, Pleas and Pleadings, Ejectment, Nuisance, Waste, Devises, Remainders, Alienation by Deed. Two-fifths of the volume are on Real Property. Church wasted no time drawing girls' faces or caricatures of the professor such as occasionally illuminate the classroom records today. These 1806 notes are all solid meat.

Whether this material was all that Reeve offered, or whether it was simply all that Church was content with, cannot be said. If it was all that Reeve gave in what was probably the finest law teaching then available, it is a far cry indeed from the vast quantum, under many headings, which the modern law school seeks to stuff into the student before it feels that he can be trusted to go forth and slay lions. But young Church conquered his world. Entering Yale in 1799, he graduated in 1803 and had studied law with Judge Canfield at Sharon before he went to Reeve in June 1806. He was admitted to the Connecticut bar in that same year. In the
Assembly by 1820, he was a Probate Judge in 1821, State Senator in 1824. An Associate Judge of the Supreme Court by 1832, and its Chief Judge in 1847, he died in office in 1854. His grandson was our own Irving P. Church, who took a C.E. at Cornell in 1873 and M.E. in 1878 and whose long professorship in the Cornell Engineering School is still a fragrant memory.

Samuel Church outlived his law school. But the Litchfield venture is part of the history of legal education in the United States. It was a link between the ancient apprenticeship way of learning the law by "reading" in the office of a practitioner while watching him at work; and methodical teaching by the formal presentation of coordinated materials. In Reeve's time practitioners were taking several young men into their offices and teaching them. George Wythe of Williamsburg, Va., had taught Thomas Jefferson as well as some of Jefferson's friends and enemies. In the north the young man who was to be Chancellor Kent had had five fellow students when he was with Judge Benson of Poughkeepsie, N. Y. Lawyer Bourne—whose first name was Shearjashub—of Barnstable, Mass., also had several young men at the same time. At its origin in 1784 Reeve's "School" may not have been much more than a young man or two in his office. His first student seems to have been his brother-in-law, Aaron Burr, who lived with him. Professors of law, however, were being thought of. In 1779 Wythe had been made "Professor of Law and Police" by William and Mary at Williamsburg. By paying 1,000 pounds of tobacco a student might attend his lectures. There is no evidence, however, that Wythe made his professorship a full-time job, and after a few years he left it for a place on the Virginia bench. In 1778, Isaac Royall's will provided for a law professor at Harvard. Royall died in 1781 but no professor was forthcoming until 1815. Columbia, which in 1784 voted three professors, in 1793 appointed one, James Kent—who departed five years after, leaving a professorless gap which was unfilled until his own return twenty-five years later. Pennsylvania University had had law lectures off and on from 1790.

Reeve's school, however, went on continuously. By 1798 he had so many pupils that he sought and found an assistant, James Gould, who in 1820 succeeded Reeve as the head of the school. Unlike Reeve, Gould gave his whole time to teaching law. He was apparently the first professional professor of law and his school the first to employ one, though Gould was actually the proprietor of the institution. The Harvard School by 1817, however, and the nearer Yale School, which in 1824 took over Seth Staples' students, began the shift away from the apprentice method, the sporadic
lecturer, and the proprietary school. It was emphasized when in 1829 Harvard acquired a whole new set of instructors, including Joseph Story, and in 1832 a building of its own, Dane Hall. In Reeve's day Litchfield had taught men who had become famous. In Gould's time it taught John C. Calhoun and Horace Mann among others; but Gould saw that the future was with schools attached to a university. By 1833 the trend toward formal legal education had made such gains that Gould closed the doors at Litchfield.

To Albert Church Blunt, Jr., the great great grandson of Chief Judge Samuel Church, himself an M.E. in '07, Cornell University gives its very real thanks for his donation of Samuel Church's notes. They are a vivid monument of early legal education as well as an evidence of the long-time good-will to the University of the Church family. The Engineering School and the Law School are specially grateful to Mr. Blunt, and the Law School has put the volume where it will be a treasured showpiece for other young people starting in the law.