



1918

Address of Hon. S.B. Sadler, Judge of the Court of Cumberland County

S B. Sadler

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Dickinson School of Law is one of the best institutions in the Nation. May she ever maintain her high standards. Numbers of the best young men of this and former generations in the legal profession and in other fields of human endeavor as well, can point with pride to their graduation from the Dickinson School of Law.

If ever the world needed technical schools, the world needs them today. Unlike previous wars, the world war has created problems which to a great extent will devolve upon the legal profession to solve. In all the blood and lust and terror and cruelty that are tearing the earth to pieces, Trickett Hall stands as an evidence of the fact that the one thing to be held is the chance for young men, and it will stand for all time as a monument to the unselfish devotion and the many years of loyalty of the Dean whose name it bears.

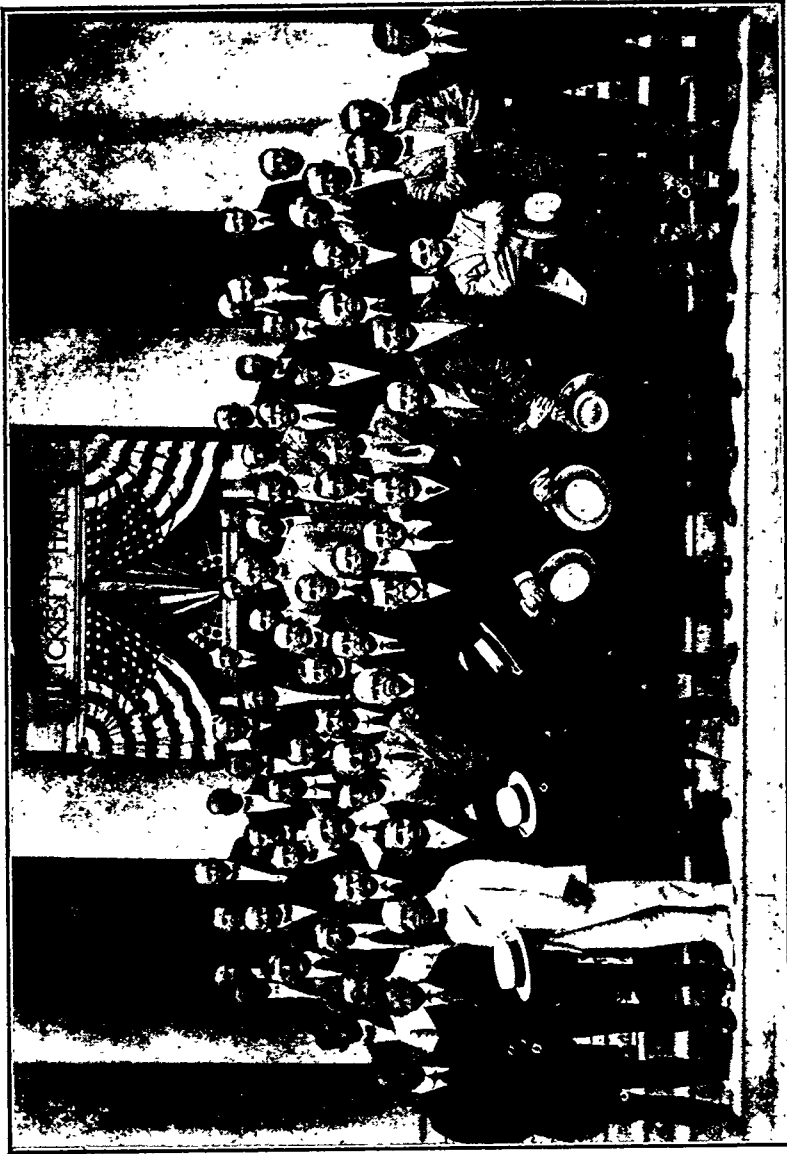
Should the alumni and friends subscribe to a fund on this occasion which will liquidate the present indebtedness, you may record my name for such subscription as my original subscription bears to the total sum of all subscriptions heretofore made.

ROBERT HAYS SMITH.

**ADDRESS OF HON. S. B. SADLER, JUDGE OF THE
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF CUMBERLAND
COUNTY.**

Gentlemen of the Alumni:

As I happen to be a judge, I have been asked to say a few words. Public speaking is, as you know, one of the perquisites of judicial office. We are asked on all occasions, not by reason of supposed oratorical power, or surpassing wisdom, but because it is believed that the audience will out of politeness express appreciation. Sometimes they do—sometimes they don't. Recently I



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was asked to address a patriotic meeting in the lower end of the county. When I got there I found the only male audience was made up of the litigants on the two sides of a pending case.

I am sure that it is a great pleasure for us to take part in this celebration. From humble beginnings a century ago, this institution has risen to a commanding position, and in the process has made its impress throughout the commonwealth and beyond. And it is but proper that we, who owe to it our legal development, should express our appreciation.

That a school of law should have arisen in this community is not surprising when one looks back at its professional history. One of the first judges of the Supreme Court was our first county judge, Smith, and the second Chief Justice, Edward Shippen, was a member of the local bar. Here lived and died Gibson, Brackenridge, Duncan and Kennedy—three of whom are buried within 100 yards of each other in the old graveyard. To the Supreme Court of the United States the town gave James Wilson, the college Roger B. Taney, while Grier was for a time a resident. The early bench and bar were able and independent. Here we find the first contempt of court case, arising from the effort of the Supreme Court to compel the surrender of a prisoner for trial in Philadelphia.

Here centered some of the most important anti-slavery litigation, of which the McClintock riot and Kaufman damage cases are illustrations—tried by men like Meredith, David Paul Brown and Stevens—and the second of which resulted in a declaration by the State Supreme Court fixing jurisdiction in the fugitive slave cases.

As a result of the spirited contentions of able practitioners, the course of legislation was changed in many ways, notably in the passage of the Act of 1810, subse-

quently repealed, forbidding the citation of English precedents prior to 1776. This was said to be the result of the embarrassment of Judge Hamilton, who had difficulty in understanding the citations of Thomas Duncan, later of the Supreme bench. And the whole system of review of capital cases was altered by the Schoeppe murder case, as a result of which the Act of 1870 was passed, providing for the review of capital cases by the Supreme Court, and the examination of the evidence to determine the presence of the necessary elements to constitute the offense one of first degree.

But you are not interested in local legal history, and I merely call these matters to your attention to show the suitability of the surroundings, when Judge Reed began his short lived experiment. The resurrection of his plan did not come until 1890, since which time the institution has met with increasing success, and sent into the professional world scores of men who have been able to make good, thanks to the habits of industry, application and mental discipline, as well as knowledge of fundamental legal principles, instilled into them here.

Most of us left here without any resources except our brains, and most have been able to use them to advantage, and I think for this reason that there is among the graduates a stronger feeling of appreciation for benefits received than is ordinarily found among the alumni of colleges and universities. Your feeling is given expression by your part in the erection of this building, and you have come back to acknowledge the debt you feel. But I am inclined to believe that there would not be so much interest, or so many here, if at the back of your minds you did not have the feeling that you were paying tribute to something more than your Alma Mater, but to a man whose unselfish life and work has centered here, and who has had a possibly unrecognized but nevertheless potent influence in the

framing of your careers. For me to descant on his learning, or his intellectual force and brilliancy before you would be foolish, as it would be to comment upon his unusual ability to impart his knowledge to those under him. I doubt if any of us in after years have had any regret even for his disciplinary measures. But his influence upon us was not limited to his teachings. The example of a man of stainless integrity, of unremitting industry, a liver of a noble, self-denying life, and a doer of generous deeds, made unconsciously its impress on us all. And I am glad that we have this public opportunity of acknowledging our obligation, and of repaying it as far as it can be repaid, and, on this day and in this way offering our tribute of profound regard and sincere respect. It is most fitting that this building should stand as a permanent monument to him and visualize a real personality—one whom we love and honor, if we did not obey, the Dean.

This building has been erected in a suitable place, in a suitable manner, and has promise of use in continued good service. It will aid in developing and broadening other men, who in turn will go forth to leave their impress in the state, as you have done, and in after years you will be happy in the consciousness that you have had your part in the training of the coming members of that profession, of which we are all so proud.

ADDRESS OF JUSTICE EDWARD J. FOX OF THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

I feel greatly honored at being invited to speak on this auspicious occasion as it is one in which I have a very great interest. I am especially interested, and have been for a great many years, in the work of legal education. It was my very great pleasure in the early history of the Pennsylvania State Bar Association to be associated with Dean Trickett as a member of the Com-