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John W. Kephart

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**ADDRESS OF HON. JOHN W. KEPHART, JUSTICE
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA,
AT THE DEDICATION OF TRICKETT HALL.**

Fellow Alumni of Dickinson School of Law: We meet for the purpose of celebrating the completion of the first school building constructed through voluntary subscriptions from the students who here received their education in the law. Its erection marks an epoch in this school's life, for it is the outward manifestation that proclaims to the school world the ability of this institution to withstand the disappointments, pitfalls and shoals which beset the growth or existence of every new institution. It evidences that its graduates are men who have earned for themselves, since their graduation, places in the world; and from the remembrance of the benefits here received, with an affection for their school, and for all the sentiments that surround it, they gave of their means that its success might be perpetuated. Still greater than all these, this building speaks of the intense loyalty, unswerving fidelity, and masterly leadership of men whose thoughts, labors and greatest endeavors have always been for the honored progress of this institution and its students. It is the silent monitor that reminds every student of Dickinson of the greatest teacher and instructor, greater to us than all the teachers of the law in America, our beloved Dean, Dr. Trickett.

Of those of us of the older school, (and we were early in its history,) and those who have followed us, our thoughts naturally cluster around the old brick building on the corner, within whose dingy walls we first received the light of legal learning. As our minds drift back through the many years that have passed since we were students, as we contemplate the great changes now being wrought in the world's history, and seek for a period in our lives that we may remember as being the most significant, there is none that stands out with more prominence than our student days at Dickinson. It is here that the fashioning of our future took place. It is here we found that line that divides the careless, light-hearted existence of youth from that life which marks a more serious consideration of the matters of the world, the career that bids for us future success or failure. Here we gathered, a lot of boys, some with wild, untrained minds and habits of many different varieties; others softened, subdued and strengthened by the hand of toil. All hoped to emerge as profound thinkers and men of wisdom, through a course of law. To weld these varying emotionalisms into a homogeneous class, bent upon securing, at the appointed time, the completion of a well rounded legal education, necessitated the labors of not only a genius but of a master mind, someone who would apply discipline, inculcate studiousness, encourage self-reliance, aid in the thoughtful application of legal principles and excite in the mind the endeavor of inventive thought, so that the student might not only be a learner and expounder of the law, but an originator of it; that principles worked out might be fairly commendable to the sound reasoner or man of common sense. As we labored industriously to master what seemed most difficult and intricate subjects scientifically arranged to plague and harass our minds, we

realized, as they were made clear, in our daily advance toward our wonted goal, that we were unconsciously absorbing a new and powerful influence, something that would remain with us until the end of time. This influence was the wonderful personality of the Dean. How it filled our ideas of correctness, how it implanted itself in the active life of each boy, is too well known to the Dickinson law student to necessitate interpretation or repetition.

Let us remember, for we cannot forget, dear old Judge Sadler, the Dean's most capable assistant, whose tenderness of heart and love for the boys caused him often to break down what seemed to us insuperable barriers that we might reap the full fruits of our labors at school. He made it much easier for us to gain entrance to bars having a tendency at that time to be hostile, as we were a new institution. We all love and remember that kind, benevolent spirit, whose hair is now whitened by the years of time. His reflections should give him unbounded satisfaction with having spent an honorable, useful life, secure in the affections of his pupils.

We had other most estimable instructors here and in the academies and colleges, but of all these, the one that stands out most prominently and vigorously and the one remembered with most affection as Dickinson's central figure is Dr. Trickett. This is best evidenced when his name is mentioned to former students. The responsive cord that it strikes, the tender affection with which it is spoken, bespeaks more than the love for an instructor, it bespeaks of an affection for the man himself. As in the days of school life, when we regarded his views of the law as final and the best, so today when courts are in opposition to his views and go wrong, as they often do, with a man from Dickinson, Dr. Trickett's views are

still final and the best. Is there a lawyer here who cannot in fancy now hear Dr. Trickett forcibly denounce the rule in the Sanderson case, even as we heard it twenty years ago. This criticism formed the basis of the opinion which is now the law of the State.

Dr. Trickett and Judge Sadler are inseparably connected with the Dickinson School of Law. We cannot think of the law school without thinking of them, and we cannot think of them without thinking of the law school, and when we talk of the law school we must necessarily talk of them. Both have given much to this institution and its students. Dr. Trickett has given to the boys the best that was in him, the best of his life. His labor is reflected in the success of the students who left here with their degrees. He consecrated himself to this work and there is nothing that gives him more pleasure than when he learns of the progress of one of his boys from Dickinson. Though the Doctor has grown old in the service, you can still catch the manifestation of a great interest when a pleasing reference is made to one of his students.

We have reared here this building—this temple as it were—as a tribute to the love and esteem not only for the school, but for Dr. Trickett and his co-laborer, Judge Sadler. Our only regret is that they cannot be rejuvenated and today have that splendid vigor of twenty years ago, and again assume the task of shaping the minds of the future students who enter this institution. Without boasting, Dickinson School of Law has a higher percentage of successful men in the world today than any other similar institution of learning in the United States. This is due to the wonderful personality, the wonderful course of instruction, and the manner in which the Dean delivered it to the boys he taught. We all join in an expression of loyal devotion to our school, and in a wish and

prayer that the Dickinson School of Law may always be as successful as it is today, indeed, that she may march onward as she has done in the past, and that her labors may be crowned with successful men enjoying responsible positions throughout the world, and for all this we may look back to the figure that stands supreme in the history of the Dickinson Law School, Dr. William Trickett.

RULES OF COURT OF THE DICKINSON SCHOOL OF LAW ADOPTED JANUARY 1, 1919.

1. The Moot Court of the Dickinson School of Law shall be divided into sections corresponding in name, jurisdiction and methods of procedure to the different courts of Pennsylvania.

2. Sessions of the court shall be held every Tuesday and Friday of the school year at 11:30 A. M.

3. Two cases shall be argued at each session of the court, unless otherwise specifically ordered by the faculty member in charge.

4. Students assigned as counsel and judge shall ascertain from the faculty member in charge the date upon which their cases will be called for argument.

5. All proceedings shall be instituted and prosecuted in the appropriate section of the court as determined by the law of Pennsylvania and all papers shall indicate the court in which the matter is pending; e. g., "The Orphans Court of the Dickinson School of Law," and they shall take a number corresponding to the number of the case and term corresponding to the last month of the school term in which the case is argued. All cases shall be headed in briefs and opinions in the following form: