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## Address of Dr. George Edward Reed, Formerly President of Dickinson College and of the Dickinson School of Law

George Edward Reed

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monument more lasting than bronze in the hearts of men who have gone out from this splendid school of law. You who have sat there at the feet of this Gamaliel have enjoyed a rare privilege and which I can well see you all prize most highly. If we wish to keep the lustre of our profession untarnished, may all of us, both you and I, mould our professional lives upon this life of the great teacher here who is so eminent and so justly distinguished in the world of legal education as a Master in the profession.

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**ADDRESS OF DR. GEORGE EDWARD REED, FORMERLY PRESIDENT OF DICKINSON COLLEGE AND OF THE DICKINSON SCHOOL OF LAW**

Mr. Chairman, Dean Trickett, Alumni of the School, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Invited by the distinguished Dean of the School to be present at the occasion of the celebration of the twenty-eighth anniversary of the founding of the Dickinson School of Law, together with the dedication of the superb building, one of the finest in the land—in which we are now assembled, to the purpose for which it was designed, and to make a brief address, I very gladly consented, both because of my high regard for Dean Trickett and my deep interest for many years in the building up and success of the school.

The accomplished lawyer and jurist—Mr. Justice Fox, of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, in opening his address, stated that the Dean of the School had suggested to him a brief address.

The Dean's invitation to me was much more specific, namely, that I should speak about fifteen minutes. In urging this time limitation I am confident he had a vivid memory of the twenty-two interminable baccalaureates to which for twenty-two years he wear-

ily but patiently listened and so desired to forestall a similar catastrophe on this auspicious occasion. I will, therefore, endeavor not to overtax your patience by any extended remarks. In his invitation the excellent Dean was kind enough to refer in flattering terms to the really unimportant part I was enabled to play in the founding of the school and in subsequent years as President of the Board of Incorporators.

That part, as I have said, was really of little moment. My duty was to preside at the meetings of the Incorporators, make the annual address at the annual opening of the school, present the diplomas on Commencement days and once a year give a reception to the members of the Senior Class.

The annual address, I may say, was eventually given up, much to the relief of the Faculty and the older students, each of whom because of frequent iteration could easily have given the address from memory.

I remember, too, that I used to give lectures to the boys on the Art of Public Speaking, but these also were soon discontinued, the students convinced that they knew as much about public speaking as the instructor himself, a perfectly justifiable conclusion on their part. In short I was simply the "show man" of the school, doing a kind of work upon which the Dean, with his usual modesty, positively refused to enter.

In the success of the school, however, I had the deepest interest, laboring to build up its numbers as earnestly as I did for the College of which I was also president.

It is for this reason that today I am glad to be here to join in congratulations to the Dean and his coadjutors on the splendid success of the school under his direction, and upon the completion of the stately structure bearing his honored name, and which for gen-

erations to come will perpetuate the memory of his life and labors.

Speaking historically, a Department of Law in connection with Dickinson College is one of the traditions of the venerable institution. Early in the last century, at a time when there were but two or three Schools of Law in the country, a department of Law was established here, under the direction of the Hon. Judge Reed, at that time President-Judge of the Cumberland County Courts, and for a number of years was maintained under his able supervision.

On the decease of Judge Reed, Judge Graham, also President-Judge, assumed the charge of the department and continued the chair until his decease in 1882, when the department was discontinued. During this period many men afterward eminent as jurists and in public life, were graduated from the school, among them the Honorable Andrew G. Curtin, the great War-Governor of Pennsylvania; the Honorable N. B. Smithers of Delaware; Honorable Charles B. Lore, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Delaware, and many more eminent in the legal profession.

With this tradition of law running back for many years it was but natural that many should desire that once again the department of Law should be revived, and in 1889-90, the project began to assume definite form.

The difficulties, however, in the way were many and great. In the first place there was no building available for the purpose, and further there was no money.

Yale College, afterward Yale University, was, as you will remember, started on a foundation of twelve volumes, the contribution of a number of poverty-stricken clergymen of Connecticut, but here there was not even a volume of Law save the volumes on the

shelves of Dr. Trickett, afterward Dean of the School.

But if material resources were wanting courage and resolution were not, and the determination was reached to establish, not a department of Law, as in the olden time, but a distinct school of Law, with its own Board of Incorporators, and a faculty of its own as well.

Fortunately for the fortunes of the school, there was residing in Carlisle a man, of large experience in educational work, of extensive practice as a lawyer, already eminent as an authority in legal literature, and, potentially, as I thought the ablest teacher of Law in the whole land, namely, Dr. William Trickett, the man whom we honor today, and of whom this splendid structure is the outstanding memorial.

With such a man available the law school had one asset, at least, of incalculable value.

The trustees of the College were pleased to grant the use of an abandoned church building in its possession, and through the generosity of William C. Allison, the wealthy car-builder of Philadelphia, this building was reconstructed, fitted with steam-heating apparatus, and with the necessary furnishment and for twenty-eight years continued to be the home of the school.

Here, in passing, mention should be made of the great services rendered the School, both at the outset of its history, and ever since, by the Honorable Wilbur F. Sadler, then president Judge of the County and now in honorable retirement.

Always the unwavering friend of the institution, to him more than to any other man, save Dean Trickett, is due the signal successes that have been achieved and it is not too much to say that but for him, his courage and enthusiasm, together with the generous aid of many more, this stately building would not be standing here today.

It should also be borne in mind that while the school of Law owes much of its success to the untiring labors and great sacrifice of Dr. William Trickett, Dean, great credit is also due the able corps of instructors.

The Honorable Sylvester B. Sadler, now president-Judge, J. M. Weakley, familiarly known as "Senator" Weakley, Judge M. W. Jacobs of the Harrisburg bar, Joseph P. McKeehan, Esq., Frank B. Sellers, Esq., Prof. W. H. Hitchler, Frederic C. Woodward, now Dean of the School of Law of the University of Chicago, and others of eminent ability, associated with him in the work of the school.

But whatever credit is due these worthy gentlemen for their valuable services it yet remains true that the one man to whom the school owes most of its distinction it has gained, is the modest gentleman who at this moment is seated over yonder by the open door to the end that should any words of personal eulogy be spoken on this occasion he might have a convenient escape from observation.

Mr. Justice Fox of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, in the eloquent address to which you have just listened, paid high tribute to the thorough work done in the School, in mentioning the fact that among the many graduates of Schools of Law, and from private offices, coming before that august tribunal for final examination as to their fitness for admission to the bar, few, if any, stood higher in examination, or more successfully passed the final ordeal than the graduates of the Dickinson School of Law—a statement that speaks volumes for the thoroughness of the instruction here given.

Surely no one acquainted with Dr. Trickett, no one familiar with his high ideals, his exacting methods,

Note—Professor Woodward is now a Major Judge Advocate, U. S. A., and Professor Hitchler is a Lieutenant of Infantry.

the example of his own indomitable industry, could have expected any other result.

This School of Law has been from the outset a working School. It has never tolerated loafers. It has offered no easy courses. If any man came here with the expectation of getting through with a minimum of labor and a maximum of ease he was soon undeceived. The Alumni here gathered today remember full well the iron rule which forbade entrance to his recitation room of any student if but a half minute late. Men simply had to be prompt, had to do the work laid out, or face the ordeal of a private meeting with the Dean in his office, an ordeal which every student endeavored to avoid.

And yet strict as was the Dean with respect to all requirements and all obligations I have yet to find an Alumnus of the School who has had any but good words to say of the patience, kindness of heart, and depth of personal interest, ever characteristic of the honored head of the institution.

Twenty-eight years do not form a long period in the history of a school, and yet within the compass of these brief years more than six hundred men have been graduated from its halls, the majority of whom today are in active practice of their profession.

Of the six hundred one is at present on the Superior Court bench of the State, Mr. Justice Kephart, while at least three more, Sylvester B. Sadler, Frederick B. Moser and Albert S. Heck are serving as president Judges of their respective counties. Others have attained to conspicuous positions in public life, while many more are among the rising lawyers of the State.

It is also a matter of special pride, that of the six hundred graduates of the School more than one hundred and forty-three have nobly responded to the call of the country, and now on the battle-scarred plains of France,

or in the camps at home, stand ready to pay to a great and holy cause the last full measure of devotion—the devotion of their lives to the end “that government of the people, by the people and for the people may not perish from the earth.”

It is also a cause of special gratification that through the erection of the stately building in which we are now assembled, the future of the School of Law has been guaranteed.

In recent years many have speculated upon what would be likely to happen, should Dean Trickett pass away, or be compelled by the infirmities of years to cease from his useful labors.

These speculations are now matters of the past. This building, erected largely through the generosity of its young alumni, guarantees the future of the School. The men who erected this structure will never allow the school to fail.

Dr. Trickett may in time go the way of all the earth but the School will go on. He is, however, still essentially a young man, and this for the ladies—as “eligible” as ever. But even should the Standard bearer fall other men will take up his task and the school will go on. In time it will be amply endowed. The alumni will not suffer it to want for the necessary resources.

In the past, even without endowment, it has never failed to pay its way. At the annual meetings a favorable balance was always reported, a thing seldom known in the history of the majority of similar institutions.

Trickett Hall will never fail, never close its doors.

Alumni and friends will see to that. Long live Trickett Hall!

Long live the noble body of loyal sons who by their generous giving have made possible the noble building which for a hundred years and more will continue to be the home of the Dickinson School of Law.