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## ***William Trickett\****

Doctor William Trickett was born on June 9, 1840, in Leicester, England, a city which distinguished itself in 1906 by electing, for the first time, J. Ramsay MacDonald to the British House of Commons. His boyhood was spent in and about Philadelphia but of his early years very little is known. He graduated at the age of seventeen from the Central High School of Philadelphia in the same class with John G. Johnson, long the leader of the American Bar. He seems to have marked out for himself a career in the Church, for in March, 1859, at the age of nineteen, he was admitted on trial as a preacher in the Philadelphia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church; he was received in full membership in the Conference and ordained a Deacon in March, 1861; ordained Elder in March, 1863; he served as Pastor in the pulpits of Methodist Episcopal churches in six different towns in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Delaware until 1865 when his active ministry ceased. He seems at about this time to have concluded that his largest opportunities for useful service to his fellow men would not be found in the pulpit of a church and in 1866 he entered Dickinson College, was graduated therefrom in 1868, having completed the regular course in two years.

He then began his career as a teacher, becoming Principal of the old Dickinson Preparatory School from 1868 to 1869 when it was discontinued and he became a member of the college faculty, becoming Adjunct Professor of Philosophy in which position he served until 1871. From that date until the fall of 1873 he studied in the universities of Europe, particularly in Germany, and returned to the college in the Fall of 1873 at which time he was chosen Professor of Modern Languages of the college, acting at times as teacher of Hebrew as well as of the French and German languages. His activities as a Professor in the col-

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\*This address was delivered in presenting to the Law School, on behalf of Dr. Horace Trickett Sadler, a portrait of the late Dean William Trickett.

lege ceased in January, 1874 and he began the study of the law.

There seems never to have been any active severance of his relations with the Philadelphia Conference, for from 1869 to 1874 he is recorded as a Minister in service as a Professor in Dickinson College; from 1875 down to 1900 he is recorded in the role of supernumerary; in 1901 he is recorded as a supernumerary located at Carlisle, Pennsylvania and no further minute of his connection with the ministry appears.

His pursuit of legal study resulted in his admission to the Bar of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, in 1875, so that at the time of his death on August 1, 1928, he was its oldest living member, and, in the language of the resolutions of the Cumberland County Bar Association on that occasion "without disparagement of any of his illustrious predecessors, in point of legal scholarship and authorship, its most distinguished member."

His thorough and intensive study of the law from 1874 onward led him straight into the region of legal authorship. In 1881 appeared his masterful textbook on the theretofore uncharted maze of the Law of Liens in two volumes, supplemented in 1891 with a third; in 1884 his Law of Limitations and Law of Assignments; in 1893 his Law of Boroughs in Pennsylvania with a supplement thereto in 1898; in 1894 the Law of Highways; in 1900 the Law of Guardians and Law of Partition; in 1901 the Law of Witnesses; in 1904 the Law of Landlord and Tenant; in 1908 Criminal Law in two volumes. This contribution to American legal literature was a splendid thing in itself; the favorable judgment of our critical profession, both Bench and Bar, have given it its appropriate place in the helpful aids that have been placed on the desk of almost every lawyer in Pennsylvania. Much has been and will continue to be said about it but it is sufficient for the purposes of this occasion to quote from the language of John H. Wigmore, a man of conspicuous distinction in the same field, his appraisal of their value. He said, in speaking of Doctor Trickett's publications, "In shrewdness of insight,

keenness of discrimination and pungent clarity of expression, his writing would have commanded general attention as unique in American literature \*\*\*\* as the type of an acute legal mind and sound scholar and the fearless thinker, untrammelled by formulas. I offer my homage to the scholar who did so much to make Dickinson College of Law a repository of the best traditions of our profession."

But it is not as Preacher, as Professor, as Author that we think of our friend today. The full fruition of his hopes, his aspirations and his efforts will be found in none of these. It was to this Dickinson School of Law that he devoted what he and we consider his effective powers and activities.

There had been a law school in Carlisle, established as a department of the College, in the year 1834 by Hon. John Reed, President Judge of the Courts of Cumberland County. The purpose of the school was declared to be "to prepare students of the law thoroughly for the practice of their profession and to afford to others the means of such general instruction in the science as is deemed indispensable to every finished scholar, and eminently useful to every American citizen." Andrew G. Curtin, the great war Governor of Pennsylvania, was a member of its first graduating class, and Alexander Ramsay, later Governor of Minnesota and Secretary of War, was graduated therefrom in 1840. At the death of Judge Reed the school was discontinued but the Trustees of the College, at a meeting on January 9, 1890, decided to re-establish the law school and on February 10, 1890 a charter was granted thereto by the Court of Common Pleas of Cumberland County.

Emory Hall, which had formerly been a Methodist Church, was selected as the building to be occupied by the school, and on October 1, 1890 the school was opened with Doctor Trickett as the Dean, in that building. The opening was not auspicious; seventeen young men gathered in Emory Hall with Doctor Trickett as the Dean; the Library—what there was of it—was the personal contribution of Doctor Trickett. He served as Dean without compensation; he had acquired fame as a legal author, but

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success is never guaranteed by past accomplishment, and the school had its place to establish and maintain among the law schools of the country. The story of his life here is the record of that achievement. Of that first class of seventeen, six are living—three practicing law in Pennsylvania, one in Harrisburg, one as Counsel for the Atlantic Refining Company in Philadelphia, and the third your able ex-District Attorney of this County, Thomas E. Vale.

The forty years which separate us from that day have fully justified the efforts, verified the hopes, and sanctified to this Law School, the sacrifices of Doctor Trickett. It was in no vain glorious spirit, but rather in a mood of serene satisfaction that he contemplated in his later years the results of his labors here. Nothing gave him more pleasure than to learn each passing year, at each recurring Commencement, of the successes of those whom he had lovingly guided to the Profession—from Soldiers' Orphans' School and from Yale University, through this Law School to the Bench of the Superior and Supreme Courts of Pennsylvania; from a farm in Juniata County to Congress; from law student here to the Bench and District Attorneyship in many Counties of this State, to legislative halls, and to honorable places in the profession in every County—all in one generation.

It is triteness to observe at this late date that every great institution—be it railroad, bank, building, a college or university—is but the lengthened shadow of a great man; but though trite, it is true that this law school is the lengthened shadow of Dr. Trickett. It is not so much that he brought to the administration of its affairs, the resources of culture developed by travel and liberal studies both here and abroad; that he contributed his distinction as a legal author; that he gave of his personal means and effort to its affairs when they seemed darkest; and that he was probably the one man, by virtue of training, aptitude and temperament, for its head. All these, of course, were important, but there is only time today to refer to his close, personal association with every student who ever entered here during his lifetime. He had dignity without con-

descension; impartiality which knew no favoritism; fairness without at any time lowering or disturbing standards; and always, everywhere, under every circumstance, for every individual student, a sympathetic helpfulness, often carried to the point of personal and financial aid. It was his golden heart that brought him love from every side and most of all from the students of law in this school whose tasks he made happy and light.

A significant fitness characterizes this occasion. Dr. Trickett's life was a lonely one; he did not have what would be called in American life, a home. He seems to have accepted one argument in favor of the celibacy of the priesthood. Lord Bacon, remarking that a priest owed the duty of loving his whole congregation—an impossibility if the priest were to first lavish his affection on a family—asked, "How can Love feed a fountain if it must first fill a pool?" Dr. Trickett seemed to reserve his whole unselfish devotion for this law school and the full measure of his affection for its students. The most intimate associations of his mature years were with Judge Sadler's family; their home was often his home; together they worked and lived; they gave him steady and sympathetic support in his hopes and aspirations for this Law School, and when the shadows had long lengthened to the eastward they said to him "Come, rest with us," and together they lie wrapped in the dreamless drapery of God's everlasting peace in the Sadler plot in Old Carlisle.

On behalf of Dr. Horace T. Sadler it gives me pleasure to present this portrait of Doctor Trickett to this law school today; to you, Dean Hitchler, and your associates to whom he has flung the torch. His pictured lips seem to me this afternoon to be almost breaking into voice in a benediction that this institution may steadily move forward under your and their direction, with perfect faith and hope, assured in the accomplishment of his and its high purpose.

CLARENCE VALENTINE.