

# YALE LAW JOURNAL

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Published six times a year, by students of the Yale Law School

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SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, \$2.00 A YEAR

SINGLE COPIES, 35 CENTS

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THE past twenty years have seen a remarkable transformation in the Yale Law School. At the beginning of that period, it existed only in name. It had apparently outlived its past and its usefulness, and the spark which still survived threatened to go entirely out. But a few men, who are still connected with the school, came to the rescue. They reorganized the school, and to-day its high rank is everywhere recognized. It is but justice to say that this is entirely due to them. But the continued prosperity of any institution cannot safely depend on the slender thread of the present efforts of a few men, however able. If the future is to see a still higher development and usefulness, endowment, thorough organization, and continuity of growth along well-defined lines are a necessity; and the closer connection and deeper interest of the graduates, if not indispensable, is greatly to be desired. They form the natural body-guard of an institution and to them it most naturally looks for means of expansion and recognition of position. The graduates of the Yale Law School, with much individual interest, have lacked the *esprit de corps*, which is necessary for effective unity. The formation of the Alumni Association was a step in the right direction. THE LAW JOURNAL is intended to be another. It provides a common means of communication between the graduates and the students, and its success should be a mark of the vitality of the school. As representative of the law department, its pages are open to the freest discussion of the policy

and methods of legal education, and to every topic connected with the welfare of the school. As a technical magazine of law it is the hope of the promoters that it will be in the future a common arena of discussion for the graduates of the Yale Law School. It cannot be necessary to appeal to them to make it worthy of the institution which it represents, and to bring to its support scholastic and practical ability. While its strength must mainly come from them, contributions from the students of the school are very cordially invited.

There are many who deprecate student's contributions as of little value, and interfering with more practical objects. In answer, it may be said that professional conceptions, which leave out the thought of the law and its higher standards are either mutilated or dwarfed; and that publication of the best student efforts is a most potent aid in the cultivation of its theory. The value to the writer is to be considered in such publication. The editors thank most sincerely those who have given such generous support to the *LAW JOURNAL*. It needs the strong interest of the incoming class, and its success will largely depend on their efforts.

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THE transformation of professional life and its adaptation to the economic and social life of the time is an inexorable change. The industrial life of to-day is accentuated by a strong and efficient organization unknown half a century ago. Under its influence the traditional position of the lawyer has changed in the community. Then he was the leading figure of the neighborhood—a man of all-around culture, of public affairs, versed in the best scholasticism of history, politics, life. To-day the development of commerce is so gigantic as to threaten to make the lawyer only ancillary to the business man. While the usefulness of a profession depends on its moulding itself to the requirements of the time, there is much in the old time traditional lawyer, which, if lost, will be an irretrievable loss: the dignity and honor of learning; the love of the profession as a profession and not as a trade; the knowledge and the refinement of literature; and the avoidance of an exclusive specialism in those who play so large a part in shaping the practical affairs of society.