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PROFESSOR GEORGE JARVIS THOMPSON

The Board of Editors of the CORNELL LAW QUARTERLY, in deep appreciation and gratitude, affectionately dedicate this volume to Professor George Jarvis Thompson, teacher, scholar, gentleman, and friend.

Steeped in the great traditions of the Common Law, Professor Thompson's influence has left an indelible mark on the professional careers of decades of Cornell lawyers, all of whom have received the full benefit of his open-mindedness in the broad exposition of the Law of Contracts and the principles of Business Regulation, and, above all else, his understanding and philosophy of Law.

He cannot but serve as an example of the highest virtues of a gentleman, and as a model for all those who are privileged to know him. For those legions of Cornell law students who have knocked and continue to rap on the glass of his office door, the sound of his response—"Come"—exemplifies his unswerving allegiance to the teacher's Ideal, the service of his students.

For some men, this would be enough.

Now in his thirtieth year at the Cornell Law School, Professor Thompson has at all times performed his full share of professorial tasks, no matter what other activities occupied him. His interest in the history of the Common Law resulted in his study, *THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM: HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH COURTS TO THE JUDICATURE ACTS*. The high regard by his colleagues for his talents and achievements in the field of Contract Law resulted in his appointment as Chairman of the Editorial Committee of the American Association of Law Schools' volume, *SELECTED READINGS ON THE LAW OF CONTRACTS*, published in 1931. It has been said by one writer that "the editing was a prodigious task" and that the volume is "a great text-book on the law of contracts, of a glorified content." Professor McGovney declared "that the task has been admirably performed. . . . It gives a better in-

sight into the law of contracts on the points discussed than any volume ever written. . . ." Judge Cardozo, in the Introduction, said of this work that "truth . . . is here dignified and honored in the respectable security of an indubitable book."

Professor Thompson served as an adviser in the preparation of the *RESTATEMENT OF THE LAW OF CONTRACTS* and his long association with Samuel Williston led to his co-authorship, in 1936, of the Williston and Thompson revised edition of the 1920 classic treatise. When Lord Wright observed that "Williston on Contracts has already had a great part in the secular progression of our Common Law and that the new edition will nobly continue the great work," he marked its significant place in History.

John F. X. Finn's splendid tribute to Professor Thompson's contribution is but typical of the thoughts of many:

The revised Williston is a gold mine of great worth. Professor Thompson has brought to the revision a fresh keenness, an aptness of citation and an unerring accuracy. It is small wonder that Williston himself became fascinated by the new brilliance of his old gem and soon warmed to the task of perfecting perfection. This is not a rehash of any old dish. It is a thorough revision and almost a new work. The combination of Williston's thoroughness of analysis, depth of experience and facility of expression with Thompson's diligence of application, relentless energy and unbounded enthusiasm for contractual concepts has served to produce a treatise as nearly perfect as human hands can mould.

For some men, this would be more than enough.

The Board of Editors of the *CORNELL LAW QUARTERLY* takes great pleasure in presenting the tributes of three distinguished men who have so kindly participated in the dedication of this volume to our own beloved Professor Thompson.

TO PROFESSOR GEORGE JARVIS THOMPSON

Classmate

Having learned today that the CORNELL LAW QUARTERLY has dedicated this volume to Professor George J. Thompson, of the class of 1912 at the Harvard Law School, I would like to express the pride which the members of our class have taken in his unusually valuable contribution to the legal profession.

He has lived up to the highest standards of our law school days. His fine influence will long be felt not only through the professional services of his students, but also through the generally better understanding of the Law of Contracts made possible through his keen insight, careful research, and considered writing.

His friends of more than forty-five years extend to him this appreciation of his constructive career and high character.

Harold H. Burton

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

TO PROFESSOR GEORGE JARVIS THOMPSON

Scholar

It is with great pleasure that I contribute to the volume of the QUARTERLY that is dedicated to Professor George J. Thompson. For nearly ten years, between 1922 and 1932, I worked many days with George, Samuel Williston, and others in preparing the two volumes known as RESTATEMENT OF THE LAW OF CONTRACTS published by the American Law Institute. It involved about four conferences per year, some of them a week in length, our small group associating together both at meals and at work. In summer, this occurred by the blue water on the coast of Maine; during the Christmas holidays, we met at a club near Pinehurst, N.C. It was a most harmonious and industrious group; and the mind and personality of George Thompson supplied a full share of the industry and added much to the harmony and to the value of the work. Samuel Williston, the chief Reporter, was 94 years of age September 24, of this year. I myself have been retired from active teaching at Yale for 12 years. George was like our younger brother, always helpful, suggestive, and affectionate. It must be that he too is approaching retirement. Our association of 25 years ago has filled a bright spot in my memory ever since then; and I join gladly in doing him honor and in sending him my warm and affectionate greetings.

Arthur L. Corbin

PROFESSOR OF LAW EMERITUS, YALE LAW SCHOOL

TO PROFESSOR GEORGE JARVIS THOMPSON

Teacher and Colleague

George Thompson blows not his own horn, yet for him the trumpets should be sounded. The request for a word for the QUARTERLY comes to me while I am in a remote spot where I have no material for a vita, nor do I want to make this an obituary. May *that* be long postponed! I salute George Jarvis Thompson, the dedicated professor who, for thirty years, has lived and moved and had his being in the Cornell Law School. He has unstintingly pumped his life-blood into his teaching, his contacts with students and into the myriad services which do not show in the record but which fill the 9 to 5:30 hours. Always busy, always willing to be more busy, George has been a wheelhorse in our school. He has brought out the best in students; he has set a pace for colleagues. As one who has watched his daily round with admiration, and marvelled at his good cheer under his overload, I bespeak for him a hearty "well done."

Cornell has profited in prestige from his writings, and from his experiences in places remote and near at hand. China knew him in his youth. Other schools in this country knew him before he came to us. But he has flowered at Cornell and we have enjoyed the fullness of his personality. For what he is and for what he has done we thank him.

G. H. Robinson

PROFESSOR OF LAW EMERITUS, CORNELL LAW SCHOOL