

ERRATA

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(paste before page 573)

Insert material below beginning with the third paragraph, seventh line. Thereafter, return to line eight. NOTE: This speech and the following commentary by Professor Ted Schneyer will be reprinted in full in Mercer Law Review, Volume 41, Number 3 (Spring 1990).

the source of law. It was this respect for law that filled the Greek soul, and inspired the inscription on one of the monuments at Thermopylae: "Go stranger and declare to the Lacedaemonians that we died here in obedience to their divine laws."

When in the course of this address I speak of the law, it will be understood, that I use it in its most comprehensive sense, for I shall use it in the sense of a rule of human conduct, and shall not pause to discuss its source, or its various divisions. For my purpose, it is immaterial whether the rule of conduct be prescribed by the common or civil law, the statutes, or the judges. It is sufficient that law exists, and that its existence is necessary for the welfare, protection and security of individuals and nations. The character of laws must necessarily vary from time to time, as civilization advances, but respect for the law should know no change. In every period of the world's history the real greatness of a people may be measured by their respect for the law, and a violation of municipal law, or of the law of nations, should be punished as certainly as nature punishes the violation of her own laws. We never speak of violated law and of punishment therefor without having presented to us the picture of our first parents in the Garden of Eden. I was under the impression, that the punishment allotted to them was because of their violation of God's command, but I find that the Jewish historian Josephus says that: "God allotted him (Adam) punishment because he weakly submitted to the counsel of his wife."

That there is a want of respect for the law in some sections of our country is manifest. I do not refer to these sudden, violent outbursts of passion, when a mob takes into its blood-stained hands a person suspected of crime and wreaks its vengeance upon the shrinking pleading wretch; but to those more insidious attacks, which, having ostensibly and perhaps sincerely, for their purpose, the advancement of the law and the purification of morals, really engender disrespect for the law. There are few forces today that make more strongly, for good or evil, than that of the press, and yet, there is seldom a great legal cause pending, when some reporter, frequently with a theory of his own, or with

