Ignorantia Legis
Neminem Excusat.
NOW bursts of passion sound,
And in every breast there thrills
The sweetest memories of the past,
While hope for future fills
Our souls with eager longing,
Expectancy and doubt;

Cares and sorrows quickly vanish
In the orchestra's wild rout,
The curtain slowly rises.
And the overture is done,

Attend ye, then, good people,
For the new play has begun.
Dedication Ode.

Floating adown the stream
We near the open sea.
Already we awaken from our dream,
Already face the stormy buffetings
Of cold reality.
On the wide ocean which before us spreads,
The wind of fate, tossing the mightiest kings,
The meaniest beggars, on the same wild wave,
Will drive us far asunder,
What can we do but wonder
At the strange fortunes—howsoever brave,
However weak we be—
Sure to befall us on that stormy sea?
That sea where some, alas! are speedily swept under.

Meantime, a few more days
Of youth’s sweet summer weather!
Then why—why should we not press close together,
Join hands of friendship, look back through the haze
That tinges all the past,
Tread once again those unforgotten ways,
And with glad courage greet
That future—lo! How beautiful her feet!
Who coming, proffers us, on noisy street,
On rude frontier—where’er our lot be cast—
The joy, perchance the sorrow, of better days.

The unforgotten ways! Who would forget,
Who would not cherish
The memories, though tangled, tainted, broken,
Which with the swift receding of the years
Slip from our souls and perish?
"Not yet," we say, "not yet,
Let us relinquish any precious token
Of that strong life, devoid of pain and fears,
That filled our earlier manhood! And the men—
The men themselves, who gave us comradeship,
Soon now to part, never to meet again—
These above all let us with loyal grip
Cling to while twilight deepens, and our day
Of brotherhood and gladness fades away."

This book recalls that past
And puts us all on record; from the vast
Deep of the years, which none can fully measure,
It gathers this sweet treasure,
Holds it within our reach
And offers all its fullness unto each.
And in the time to come,
Sitting perchance amid the joy of home,
While in the world without the tempest rages,
Reading we shall remember!
A tender warmth will breathe from time-stained pages,
And in the ashes of cold memory
Kindle each dying ember.
Then shall we see
Familiar faces rising
Out of time’s slow disguising,
And looking at us as they look to-day.
And we shall live these good times o’er again
In fellowship with faithful men
Until the fleeting vision melt away.

Go, then, O Book of ours,
Go forth on thy good errand, bearing
To each of us the gifts which time devours,
And also with clear voice declaring
To all the world besides that we
Have fought a worthy fight—
Have earned a place in that high servitude
Wherein strong men are free—
Free to contend for the triumph of the right,
To help the souls that struggle to do good,
And lift mankind into full liberty.

J. W. C.
JOHN MERLE COULTER, PH. D.

LATE CHANCELLOR LAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY.
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"Precedent"

Department of Law
Lake Forest University

Editio Princeps

Founded and Published by the Post Graduate Senior and Junior Classes of '96.
"Knowledge unused for the good of others is more vain than unused gold."
TO THE MEMORY OF OUR LATE PRESIDENT

Hon. Joseph Meade Bailey, LL. D.

WHOSE CONNECTION WITH THE UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN AN INSPIRATION TO ALL, THIS VOLUME IS MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED
Nature's Caprice.

"LAKE BLUFF"

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Maxims of Equity.

Equity follows the laws, regards what should be done
To reach the substance every form looks through,
On strictly equal plane puts everyone;
Who seeks her aid, himself must justice do.

With hands unstained her suitors all must be;
With equal right the first in time prevails;
With equal right the law controls decree;
The wakeful, not the sleeping, turns her scales.

To each she will impute a purpose fair,
Each legal right her ample power protects.
She acts alone on persons everywhere,
The very thing that should be, she directs.

By Robertson Palmer,
of the Chicago Bar.
WITH this, the initial appearance of **Precedent**, we hope to have stepped into a friendly world. In launching a publication of this nature into the sea of Legal Journalism, a departure somewhat from the usual Literary Annual of our Alma Mater, we have encountered many difficulties; yet we feel our Annual does not seriously conflict with any of our contemporaries, and it certainly has been our aim to keep within our respective jurisdiction. **Precedent** has but two sister publications in this country—*Yale Shingle*, published by Yale University Law School; and *To Wit*, published by the Law Superintendent of the University of Michigan for the first time in '94.

We are greatly indebted to the Advisory Board, consisting of Judges Thomas A. Moran, Edmund W. Burke, S. P. Shope, Secretary Elmer E. Barrett and Chancellor John Merle Coulter, and the remaining members of the Faculty, for their friendly solicitude in behalf of our publication. To the undergraduate departments, and the many others who have given us encouragement, we wish to express our sincere appreciation. We recognize the many shortcomings of this, our first Annual, but our failures will at least act as a stimulus to our successors; and if our contribution calls forth pleasant reminiscences of college days to those who have gone into the world from the school, and if it be an inspiration to its present matriculates, our purpose will have been accomplished.

**Precedent** is submitted to the criticism of the student body and the Alumni at large, and the Editors sincerely hope the prevailing sentiment of the future classes will be to continue its publication from year to year, and make it of substantial value to and the recognized organ of the Law Department of Lake Forest University.

Most Respectfully,

**The Editor.**
"Men may come, and men may go,
But schools go on forever."
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