

A Tribute (to Oliver Wendell Holmes)

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would tend to reverse the entire American theory of justice (branding all men potential liars) and violate the most fundamental of moral laws by breaking down the free will of man. The administration of justice is too delicate and serious a task to be tampered with by employing immature, frivolous, brain-children of well meaning but misdirected and impractical scientific minds. We may pledge co-operation in the discovery of some mysterious "truth telling" power or device. But to grasp at the first imperfect "legal-scientific" straw for a false salvation from an unfortunate existing evil—the trait of some people to utter untruths—is utterly illogical and fatal to the efficient administration of true justice and all that it implies!

And until a more tried and successful method is proved we will be forced to content ourselves with the moral force and obligation of the oath taken with the help of God!

WILBUR A. SCHMIDT, '32.

A TRIBUTE

Oliver Wendell Holmes has resigned from the United States supreme court on the eve of his ninety-first birthday which he will celebrate on March 8. The veteran justice sent his resignation to the president Tuesday, January 12. He wrote:

"The condition of my health makes it a duty to break off connections that I cannot leave without deep regret after the affectionate relations of many years and the absorbing interests that have filled my life.

"But the time has come when I must bow to the inevitable.

"I have nothing but kindness to remember from you and from my brethren.

"My last word should be one of grateful thanks."

Serving on the bench of Massachusetts and the United States supreme court, the son of the noted writer, has rounded out 50 years of meritorious judicial service. Appointed by President Roosevelt in 1902 the aged justice was entitled to retire on full salary 19 years ago but preferred to remain in active service completing 29 years of legal work on the supreme court bench last December.

He disliked being called a "dissenter" but was known to the public and profession alike for his emphatic dissenting opinions. During the present term his physical condition was such that he was able to follow the printed copy of opinions with difficulty. His voice was so weak as to carry but a few feet. His enunciation had long been indistinct.

Only when he realized that he would be unable to attend the next day's session of the court did he announce the fact that he had made his last trip from the red brick home on I street to the court chambers. The oldest man in point of years ever to serve on the supreme bench had retired. President Hoover in a kindly letter accepted the resignation of the aged barrister.

There is little comment to be made. The story of the justice's resignation and unflinching service in the public work writes its own tribute across the pages of judicial history—his long term of service is his greatest recommendation and compliment—his realization that "I must bow to the inevitable"—the most touching words that could be used to describe a human sacrifice! May Justice Holmes live to reap the tribute and glory which is rightly his—the nation owes to him a recognition of his worth before he bows to the inevitable!

WILBUR A. SCHMIDT.

ANNOUNCEMENT

By the time this issue is distributed the new staff will have been elected. In keeping with precedent, the present one wishes to sincerely thank all our contributors and subscribers for their hearty co-operation in the past. We can only wish that our successors receive the same response to their efforts which has been accorded ours. Our primary aim has been to furnish the student and practitioner a practical medium wherein their views may be expressed and to which they can go for assistance in solving legal problems. We know that any suggestions from our readers which will tend to achieve this end will be greatly appreciated by any staff which might be elected.

EUGENE H. CHRISTMAN,
EDITOR.