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Greetings from the North Carolina Bar Association

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I take the liberty also of congratulating our legislators, whose liberality has made all this possible, that our State is already reaping such rich returns from their encouragement and enlightened statesmanship.

I congratulate you Mr. President, you and your associates and the trustees of the institution, for the splendid way in which you are carrying on, showing as it does both good judgment and far seeing vision. We rejoice indeed, fellow citizens, for the work our University is doing for the good of our State and its people, and I am grateful for the opportunity to say this in your presence.

GREETINGS FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA BAR ASSOCIATION

G. VERNON COWPER

PRESIDENT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BAR ASSOCIATION

I can not refrain from saying, "It is good to be here." There is something altogether inspiring in this atmosphere. To the University student of twenty years ago, the campus presents a rather complex mixture of the old and the new. From the South Building looking directly north, the scene is familiar enough, but from the same point, going in any other direction, especially southward, he might well call for information and a guide. For all that he sees, however, certainly he is devoutly thankful.

Let me, however, turn, more particularly, to the occasion which brings us together. The erection of a commodious and spacious building to be set apart for the Law School is a matter of significance, not only to the University, but in a very real sense to every member of the bar of this commonwealth. If we could think of this building in material terms alone, there would be genuine satisfaction in its perfect lines and architectural beauty. But, if I sense the aspirations and hopes of those who dedicate this structure today, they have a deeper purpose, of which the mere mass of brick and mortar is but the outward and visible expression.

Every lawyer who has seriously considered the problems arising in the administration of justice in the State has, I fancy, arrived at the conclusion that the hour has come when we must require of those who minister in our courts a broader preparation for the important and delicate responsibilities which devolve upon them. In no sense

can this be construed in detraction of the great law teachers who, under the difficulties of the past, have wrought so faithfully and well. Too high a tribute cannot be paid them. One of the happy incidents of these exercises is that they will help to perpetuate the name of one of the outstanding representatives of those noble preceptors.

There was a time when it would have been rather harsh, if not positively unjust, to have demanded of the entrants of our law schools the equivalent of at least two or more years of collegiate education. Happily, that time has passed in North Carolina. At present, the doors of this University and of our other colleges swing wide open, and whosoever wills may enter. The day has also dawned when the study of law should no longer be crowded in one or even two years. Rather, the student who applies for license to direct the most complex and sacred relations of life should fully familiarize himself with the fundamental principles of law and procedure, as well as their past history and present application. More than this, he should be deeply grounded in the ethics of the profession and the high responsibilities of the lawyer as an officer of the court.

It is because I am persuaded that a true interpretation of this occasion has some such object as I have imperfectly outlined, that I am happy to be present and bring you a word of encouragement and congratulation from the corporate body of the Bar of North Carolina.