

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST ANNUAL
MEETING OF THE KENTUCKY STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION HELD AT
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY, JULY 2
AND 3, 1902**

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KENTUCKY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

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JULY 2 and 3, 1902.



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PROCEEDINGS.

The First Annual Meeting of the Kentucky State Bar Association convened at the Court House, in Lexington, Ky., at 2 o'clock p. m., July 2, 1902.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. W. H. Mackoy.

THE PRESIDENT: The Lexington Bar desires to welcome the members of the Kentucky State Bar Association through Judge Parker. I take pleasure in introducing Judge Parker to the members of the Association.

JUDGE PARKER'S ADDRESS.

JUDGE PARKER: The honorable distinction of welcoming you to this city has been assigned to me.

The duty thus imposed upon me is a pleasant one, even though its performance should be imperfect. It is much to be thought worthy of such a gracious duty.

Everywhere the lawyer is recognized as a potent factor in society. Invested with large power, trusted implicitly with the management of the most important affairs of others, his advice accepted as a guide to do and a defense in doing, the lawyer becomes a great power for good or for evil.

With some startling exceptions, this power has been in the past generally exerted in the interest of the rights of man. As a rule, in times of social agitation, in the times of political excitement—in times when others had lost their reason, the lawyer has stood for conservatism, for justice, for reason. The great systems of jurisprudence of the world are his handiwork, and the lawyer

is the architect of our system, the greatest system of human government ever evolved from the brain of man.

We Kentucky lawyers are the children of a glorious heritage. In what clime have grown a greater race than the lawyers of Kentucky's past? You will pardon me for saying that her lawyers were worthy of her other classes. Men whom dishonor touched not nor shame. The proudest boast of this modest city—a small part of Kentucky—is the rich and cherished memories of her great lawyers. Within the limits of the foundation of this building met in forensic debate, Henry Clay, the Breckinridges, the Wickliffes, the Woolleys, the Marshalls, the Kinkeads, the Buckners, Bledsoe, Robertson, Hunt, Beck, Huston, Harrison, Johnson, Menifee, and a host of others. They sleep in yon burial ground, but their names and memories are ours forever.

You come to us, as I understand the object of your Association, as the organized representative of a great profession. You come as men charged with the duty of fostering and maintaining the high standard of ability and integrity that has characterized the Kentucky lawyers of the past. You come in the interest of truth, of honesty, and of justice. You could not take upon yourselves a higher mission. If we would keep our profession up to its present standard, if we would preserve intact that high reputation enjoyed and merited by the Kentucky Bar, we must be ever watchful. The weed will find an abiding place in any garden if he who tends the garden be a sluggard—nay, as the bad, by some unknown law of nature, is hardier than the good, the weed destroys the flower, if vigilance be long relaxed.

I congratulate you, gentlemen, in your laudable undertaking. A volunteer band in the cause, you have assumed the custody of the honor of our profession, and you should guard that honor as faithfully as you would guard your own. May He, who guided the Hebrews of old in their keeping of His Covenant, be your leader and director, and may He inspire you with courage and

endow you with wisdom that you may worthily discharge the honorable task you have assumed.

Proud of our glory in the past, we should not forget that our pride must become our shame if we prove ourselves unworthy descendants of those now dead, who have done so much to make our profession great. You are the nucleus of a great power. In these days of progress, with an increase in population, wealth and business transactions, abuses will creep into the practice of the profession of law, unless someone takes upon himself the duty of prevention. You have assumed that duty. Your organization is an assumption of that responsibility. Your union is a guarantee of that strength which union alone can give. In combating wrong, in correcting evil, you will use that power fairly, but fearlessly. You can—I know you will—so exercise that power that to practice our profession in this state will not be possible to one who is wanting in fidelity to his clients' cause, or in truth or honesty in his intercourse with any one.

On this historic ground, which is a connecting link between the present and the past, I welcome you to-day.

In this place, which witnessed so many of their brilliant achievements, we seem to be in the presence of the honored dead. They look down upon us from these walls. There is Hunt, and Johnson, there. Here is Thomas. Yonder is Huston, as he appeared in life, the very master of wit, of eloquence and of logic. There are Wickliffe and Woolley; there Shelby—and yonder, the soldier, statesman and lawyer, the masterful Breckinridge. Menifee, that youthful prodigy, whose matchless eloquence was the wonder of the land, looks calmly into the face of the mighty Clay; and Harrison—the spotless—he whose moral nature was without flaw or blemish, is face to face with his friend, William T. Barry. A goodly company! None better among the living or the dead! And as they mutely look down upon us to-day, may we not draw inspiration from them, and imbibe the principles which guided

them in their lofty career? It may be that their spirits are with us now. If it be so, they wish us well in all that is good.

And now, gentlemen, in the name of the people of this county and city—in the name of the Fayette County Bar, I bid you welcome, and wish you God speed in the work before you.

THE PRESIDENT: It did not require the assurance of Judge Parker to make us feel that we should be welcome to the city of Lexington. Many of us knew personally the hospitality of its citizens; we knew also, that, as a matter of heredity, it was impossible for them to be otherwise than hospitable, and we felt that we should make no mistake in selecting this city as the place of meeting of the Association.

There was another reason why we desired to hold, in Lexington, what is really the first annual meeting of this Association, for the one at Louisville, last November, was merely for the purpose of organization. This city is rich in the traditions of our profession; it was an early capital of the state of Kentucky; for generation after generation, since its first settlement, it has been the home of able and distinguished lawyers, and it was the seat, at one time, of a school from which young men went forth, year after year, to adorn and dignify the bar of this state, and to add to its renown.

And now, upon this occasion, it is made my duty, by your rules, to open your proceedings with an address.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Gentlemen of the Kentucky State Bar Association:

Since your rules are silent as to the character of the address, it has seemed to me to be proper and in accordance with a custom which has obtained somewhat in such cases, to review the work of the Association since we last met, to consider briefly the changes which have been made in the law and to suggest such