CATALOGUE OF THE OFFICERS AND STUDENTS OF THE LAW SCHOOL OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY 1817-1887

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Catalogue of the Officers and Students of the Law School of Harvard University 1817-1887 by Various

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VARIOUS

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1817-1887.

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At an early period in the history of the Law School, a plan appears to have been formed of issuing a catalogue of the former students of the School triennially, in imitation of the Triennial Catalogue issued by the College. Certain it is that such a catalogue was issued triennially from the year 1830 to the year 1851, both inclusive, thus making eight issues in all. The prosecution of this plan terminated, however, with the catalogue of 1851; and only one such catalogue has since been issued, namely, in 1858.

All these catalogues were substantially alike, mutatis mutandis. Each of them contained two lists of the former students, namely, an alphabetical list and an annual list. In the latter the students were arranged according to the years in which they respectively left the School, that arrangement having been suggested by the analogy of college classes, and having been thought the best mode of bringing together the names of those who were in the School together. In each list the names of those who were known to be dead were marked with an asterisk, while, in each list, "LL.B." was appended to the name of every graduate of the School. The alphabetical list also gave the name of the place from which each student came. That list was not, therefore, regarded in the light of an index to the annual list, but as the principal list; and accordingly it preceded the annual list.

The preparation of the present catalogue was first suggested by the formation of the Harvard Law School Association in the summer of 1886, and by the announcement that that Association would celebrate, on the 5th of November following, the 250th anniversary of the foundation of the College. Of course the objects of the Association made it important that as many as possible of the former students of the School should be immediately reached and communicated with; and yet there was not in existence even a printed list of such students later than the catalogue of 1858; and the only manuscript list in existence was that contained in the original records of the School, in which the names of the students were given only in the order, in point of time, in which they entered the School. As the demand was pressing and the time was short, nothing further was at first contemplated than to bring the catalogue of 1858 down to the close of the academic year 1885-86. One important improvement, however, very soon suggested itself, namely, that of giving the precise date when every student entered the School. Accordingly, with that addition, and with such corrections of errors as

a careful examination of the original records suggested, the catalogue was put in type, and a few copies for immediate use were printed off, before the celebration took place. By that time it had been decided that the type should be kept permanently standing; and, as all immediate pressure in point of time had ceased, it was thought that it would not be creditable to the School to publish the catalogue without attempting to make it more complete and more perfect. In particular, it was thought that a systematic effort ought to be made to ascertain, not only who of the former students of the School were dead, but also when and where they died. It was evident, however, that this effort would involve ascertaining, so far as possible, the present addresses of those who were still living; for, as there could seldom be certainty that any particular person was dead unless the time and place of his death were known, so there could seldom be certainty that any particular person was still living, duless his address was known. Moreover, it was evident that those who were still living would be among the very best sources of information as to those who were dead. Accordingly, the labor was entered upon of ascertaining either the present address, or the time and place of the death, of every man who had ever been in the School.

As to those who were graduates of colleges, recourse was first had to their respective colleges. This involved, first, a laborious classification of all the graduates of colleges who had ever been in the School, according to their respective colleges; and, secondly, a laborious correspondence with nearly two hundred colleges. This labor, however, was not regretted, as it was the means of ascertaining very fully who of the graduates of colleges were dead, and, in many cases, when and where they respectively died. In many instances also the addresses of living men have been obtained through the respective colleges of which they were graduates.

Recourse was next had to directories; and the list of lawyers in every city and town in the United States and in Canada, wherever such list could be found in any printed directory, was carefully examined; and in this way the addresses of a large number of living men were obtained. No address obtained in this way could be used, however, without further evidence that the person whose address was found was the same person who was in the Law School, and not a different person with the same or a similar name. Accordingly the next step was to address cards of enquiry to all persons whose addresses had been obtained from directories; and no address has been given in the catalogue on the authority of a directory alone.

The next step was to send to every man whose address had been obtained, either in one of the ways just indicated, or through the

Harvard Law School Association, or in any other way, printed lists of the men who left the School in the same year that he did, or in the years immediately preceding or following,—the lists being so marked as to distinguish the men of whom enough was already known from those in regard to whom information was sought. These lists were accompanied by a circular, explaining the lists, indicating the amount and kind of information wanted, and requesting a return of the lists, with such of the desired information as the recipient was able to give. This process was gone through with as to every man who left the School prior to 1873, and whose address had been obtained. Moreover, as often as a new address was obtained in this way of a man who left the School prior to 1873, a circular and lists were immediately sent to him.

These circulars were responded to in a manner which was as gratifying as it was surprising. They were sent out, in the first instance, with some doubt and misgiving. Fears were entertained that many of those gentlemen who were best qualified to give the information desired would be too heavily burdened with professional or official duties, or would be too far advanced in life, to be willing to undertake the labor which a compliance with the request contained in the circular would impose upon them. Experience, however, soon showed that these fears were wholly groundless. In numerous instances, gentlemen whom, for one or both of the reasons just stated, it seemed wrong to trouble at all, not only returned the lists, with their margins crowded with the most valuable information, but also wrote long and most interesting letters.

It was inevitable, however, that much of the information obtained through these circulars and lists should be incomplete, and also that much of it should be given only by way of hint and suggestion, and as a basis for further enquiry; and therefore there resulted from it an enormous amount of correspondence, having for its object the obtaining of precise information as to particular men. Not unfrequently as many as from ten to fifteen letters have been written with reference to a single person.

A great amount of information having been thus obtained, both as to the addresses of living men and as to deaths, it was still a question how far this information should be embodied in the catalogue; but it was concluded that it would be a mistake to omit any of it; and accordingly the present addresses of all living men have been given in the annual list, so far as they have been ascertained, while the names of all those who are known to be dead are not only marked with an asterisk, but the times and places of their respective deaths are given so far as they have been ascertained.

While it would be too much to hope that the information thus given is free from errors, it is proper to say that no pains have been spared to avoid mistakes and to insure correctness. Great care in particular has been taken that the name of no one as to whose death there was supposed to be any doubt, should be marked with an asterisk. To this last statement, however, one qualification must be made, for, wherever a name is marked with an asterisk in the catalogue of 1858, that fact alone has been deemed a sufficient reason for marking it with an asterisk in the present catalogue.

The annual list has been further improved (and that too at the cost of no slight amount of labor and trouble) by adding to the name of every graduate of a college, not only his degree, but the college from which he received it, and the year in which he graduated, and also by adding to the name of every graduate of the Law School both his degree of LL.B. and the year in which he received it. In a few instances it has been found impossible to ascertain the year in which a college degree was conferred.

The foregoing additions to the annual list have made that list much more important than the alphabetical list, and accordingly the two lists have exchanged places, and the alphabetical list has become more in the nature of an index to the annual list; and, in order to make the former serve more perfectly as an index to the latter, and also to enable any one to see at a glance how long any man remained in the School, the year in which each student left the School has been added to the alphabetical list; and, in order to make more room for this addition, all asterisks and all degrees have been excluded from the alphabetical list. Of course it would have been an improvement to have given the time when each student left the School more definitely than by merely designating the year; but that was found impracticable.

Not unfrequently the same name is entered more than once in the alphabetical list. Sometimes the explanation of this is that there have been two or more persons in the School of the same name; but more commonly the explanation is that the person bearing the name has entered and left the School more than once. In all such cases the person's name is entered in the alphabetical list as many times as he entered and left the School; and it is also entered in the annual list under every different year in which he left the School.

It is not claimed that the catalogue as now issued is perfect; nor even that it is as free from imperfections as it might have been made; all that is claimed is that it is as free from imperfections as it has been possible to make it in the time that has been given. Had there been no urgent reason for publishing it just at this time, its publica-

tion would have been delayed somewhat longer; but the near approach of the second annual meeting of the Harvard Law School Association rendered any further delay impracticable. To show, however, the unfinished condition of the work, it is only necessary to say that additions and corrections continued to be made daily, and letters containing new information continued to be received daily, up to the very day of going to press.

It must not be supposed, however, that the work of obtaining information is to cease because the catalogue has been issued. On the contrary, it will be continued without interruption; and it is hoped that the publication of the first edition will serve as a fresh stimulus to the former students of the School to give their aid in making a second edition more complete as well as more correct. Those who have rendered such effective service in giving to the first edition that completeness and freedom from error which it possesses, had nothing before them but bare lists of the names of those who were their own contemporaries in the School or nearly so; and it is hoped that the possession of the catalogue itself will enable many of them to increase the debt of gratitude which the School already owes them, and which those who now have the honor to represent the School take so much pleasure in acknowledging. The information which the catalogue gives of every man who has been in the School, besides his name, particularly the place from which he came, and the college (if any) of which he was a graduate, cannot fail, in many instances, to bring a man to the minds of some of his contemporaries in the School from whose memory either the man himself or his name had gradually faded. Moreover, many gentlemen from whom information has been received, have shown a knowledge so extensive and so minute of the people (and especially the lawyers) of their own state, that it is hoped that the possession of the catalogue will enable them to give information in regard to many men of their own state, who were not their contemporaries in the Law School; and this source of information is particularly relied upon in respect to former students of the School who came from southern states.

Ausrin Hall, June, 1888.

^{*.*} All communications should be addressed to John H. Arnold, Austin Hall, Cambridge, Mass.