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Acceptance for the University

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I present this building to the University and I desire to say to you, if I may, that it is expected that this University and that this Law School will develop men of the finest character and type possible, because we have in North Carolina the best material on earth.

ACCEPTANCE FOR THE UNIVERSITY

HONORABLE JOSEPHUS DANIELS

Today is marked in this dedication by two things that stand out clearly:

1. The name of an honored North Carolina jurist is commemorated in a way alike fitting to John Manning's spirit and worthy of the institution blessed by his long and inspiring instruction. It was said of Dr. Manning, as of Lord Thurlow, that he looked wiser than it was possible for any man to be. Certainly he possessed a dignity of bearing that was in keeping with the loftiness of his life. He had a wisdom beyond any law instructor of his period, a dignity worthy of his character and a noble life free from pretense or guile. His sterling integrity, his transparent honesty and honor shone with steady rays. Every student was the better and the wiser for the privilege of association with Dr. Manning. May his lofty character and incarnation of justice be perpetuated in the building that bears his name!

2. The second significant thing of the day, let us trust, will be to place stronger emphasis upon the position of the lawyer in the life of the commonwealth. In a State where lawyers have the chief part in making the laws, in interpreting the laws and in executing the laws, there is need of a new appreciation of the place the lawyers occupy in the official life of the State.

I sometimes fear that there are lawyers who forget that an attorney is "an officer of the court." As such, it is their highest obligation to make their paramount duty the upholding of justice. They owe a duty to their clients, but such obligation is second to the duty they owe in making the courts the agency of equal and exact justice.

We hear many and earnest admonitions to jurors to be true to their oaths. Only once have I heard from the bench an admonition to lawyers to remember they are officers of the court, part and parcel of the agencies created for the enforcement of law.

May I not suggest that the lawyers to be trained here will be impressed with the fact that securing a verdict of acquittal for a client is never to be accounted as equal to the obligation to secure justice. If laws are not well enforced, if criminals escape punishment, if people lose a measure of respect for the courts when there are miscarriages of justice—if these things must be remedied, there is but one way—that is, to send trained men into the legal profession who are guided by the ethics which will insure perfect respect of tribunals responsible for the protection of life and property. That is the goal sought for, and for this advancement, this Temple of Justice has been erected. It is in the faith that here it will be true, that

“For justice, all seasons Summer, and every place a temple.”

I am privileged on behalf of the trustees to present to you, Mr. President, the Manning Building for dedication to the teaching of law and the inculcation of love of justice.