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JOHN HOWARD MOORE

ROBERT W. STURDIVANT*

This issue of the VANDERBILT LAW REVIEW is dedicated to Mr. John Howard Moore. At the end of this current school year Mr. Moore will have served a quarter of a century as a Professor of Law at the Vanderbilt University School of Law and will retire from active teaching.

Mr. Moore has been and remains an idealist and perfectionist in the law. This has been the theme of his teaching. We that had him as a teacher know that it is his belief that neither he nor anyone else is qualified to answer a nice legal question until the reports of the courts have been searched for every precedent that might bear upon the point, and until the ideas, thoughts and suggestions found in the works of the legal writers have been sifted and weighed. Having done this, he demands of himself and of his students that then and then only an independent judgment be reached. Unlike some of the moderns, he has never felt that he was sufficiently blessed in his mental attributes to entitle him to ignore the wisdom to be gained from consultation with great judges and writers of the past and present. To Mr. Moore and to men of his type, our law and thus our society owe a substantial debt. His students owe a much greater debt.

Born in 1880, Mr. Moore was graduated from Westminster College, Pennsylvania, with an A.B. degree, *magna cum laude*, in 1902, and then attended the graduate school at Leland Stanford University in California. In 1917 he received the degree of J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School. From 1917 to 1919 he engaged in editorial work for Callaghan & Company. In 1919 he became Professor of Law at the University of Florida College of Law. From Florida he went to Mercer University Law School in 1922 as Professor of Law, and in 1924 he joined the faculty of the School of Law of Vanderbilt University as Professor of Law. During the current year he has also acted as law librarian. Mr. Moore has published the following articles: "A Session on Presumptions," 5 *Alabama Law Journal* 128 (1930); "Evidence, the Jury and the Dead Hand," 70 *United States Law Review*

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312 (1936) ; and "Consideration in Formation of Contracts in Tennessee," 16 *Tennessee Law Review* 915 (1941).

It has been the writer's good fortune to know Mr. Moore well. He has always dug deep and given to his work all of the hours of the day that his physical body would let him give. In the true sense of an overworked expression, he is a perfect gentleman. He always had the full affection of his students. Innately courteous, ever considerate, he was abundantly patient with his students, always ready to devote time and effort to assist them. Inspiring to good students and to poor ones, he was an effective teacher. In his very quiet, unobtrusive, unhurried way he commands the very real respect of all that know him.