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James Paige

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In Memoriam

James Haige

JAMES PAIGE, born in St. Louis, Missouri, November 22, 1863, passed away in Minneapolis on the 4th day of February, 1940, at the age of 76 years.

His father was a native of Massachusetts, his mother of Vermont. In the early eighties, his father, a Presbyterian minister, settled in Minneapolis.

"Jimmie" Paige, as he was affectionately referred to for half a century by his students, received his education at Phillips Andover Academy, Class of 1884, and at Princeton University, where he was managing editor of the PRINCETONIAN. Recognition of his merit in scholarship earned him an election to Phi Beta Kappa. It was probably admiration for his grandfather, Judge Zimri Paige, who was learned in the law, which prompted him to choose law for his own profession. He began his study of law in his brother's office in Minneapolis in the middle eighties. There were then no law schools in Minnesota for the training of law students. When in 1888 Dean William S. Pattee opened the doors of the newly established College of Law at the University of Minnesota, he found James Paige among the first applicants for admission. Upon his graduation with the first class in the spring of 1890, Mr. Paige joined the College teaching staff, and rapidly rose from instructorship to a full professorship of law in 1896, and, upon reaching the retirement age in 1934, he was made Professor Emeritus. He was on the teaching staff under all the Deans of the School, Deans Pattee, Vance and Fraser, and was Acting Dean on two occasions.

Unthinkable as it was for the University to be left without him, it was equally if not more unthinkable for him to leave the University. So, after reaching his retirement age, he continued his work, and but for interruption by death, would this spring

have completed fifty years of teaching in the school with which his name has been so intimately identified from its beginning.

In the earlier years, he lectured on Blackstone, on the law of domestic relations, wills, real property and common law pleading. In later years he taught torts, criminal law, partnership, negotiable instruments, agency and other subjects. He was the author of numerous books and articles on legal subjects. He never engaged in the active practice of the law, but his presence has been and will be felt in the courtrooms of this and adjoining states through the practice of thousands of his disciples. To him, more than to any other person, is credit justly given for creating and building the Loan Fund to assist needy, deserving law students, in whose well-being he never tired of taking a personal interest. He guided the fortunes of the MINNESOTA LAW REVIEW from its first publication in 1917, when he undertook its business management, until the last days of his life.

His sterling character was rooted in a good inheritance, and in the teachings and example of a home life which stressed the following of the Call of Duty as the best and most honorable way of life. He leaves a record of a noble life, marked by tasks once chosen, well performed.

To the thousands who received from him their baptism in the philosophy and the art of the Law, James Paige leaves a memory of a kind-hearted, though exacting, teacher, a wise counselor and warm friend.

GEORGE B. LEONARD
