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REPORT

OF THE

THIRD ANNUAL MEETING



Virginia State Bar Association

HELD AT

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W. VA.,

July 28th, 29th and 30th, 1891.

RICHMOND, VA.:

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Tuesday, July 28, 1891.

Charles M. Blackford, of Lynchburg, Chairman of the Executive Committee, called the Association to order at 11 o'clock A. M., and said:

Gentlemen,—It is my duty as Chairman of the Executive Committee to call this body to order, and the only function I have to perform is to introduce to you your own selection as President, Hon. E. C. Burks, of Bedford City.

The President then read his address.

(See Appendix.)

Charles M. Blackford: Mr. President,—There are present here, I am very thankful to see, a great many lawyers and members of the

Meade Haskins, of Richmond : I move we adjourn until to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock.

Carried.

THIRD DAY.

THURSDAY, July 30, 1891.

The President : The Association will come to order.

Charles M. Blackford : Mr. President,—I wish to make two motions in the line of my duty. It is known to numbers of us that sundry Judges appoint these damnable special terms to be held during the meetings of this body. I think all men as old as I am will unite with me in the sentiment that the special term is an invention of the evil one, and under the circumstances deserves the condemnation of this Association. My experience is that they have been usually held simply to try railroad cases. I offer the following :

Resolved, That the bench and bar of the State are hereby earnestly requested to so arrange their terms and their business as not to conflict with the sessions of this Association.

The resolution was adopted.

Mr. Blackford : And the other resolution is this, Mr. President. I understand that there were gentlemen present last night who thought that the action of this body in regard to the printing of our proceedings in the *Law Journal* might be regarded as showing an unwillingness on our part to support that Journal. I am satisfied that there is nobody who belongs to this Association who does not feel gratitude towards that Journal, and who does not wish to do everything that can be done to support it ; it deserves our support. I arise—and it is understood that upon this motion there will be no debate—to move a reconsideration of that vote for the purpose of renewing the motion I made last night to refer the subject to the Executive Committee, who, I am sure, will take very considerate, and, I trust, favorable action. I voted for the side that prevailed, and so am entitled to move a reconsideration.

Carried.

Mr. Blackford : I now move that the whole subject be referred to the Executive Committee.

C. E. Nicol: That is acceptable to us.

Carried.

W. W. Henry, of Richmond: I have a resolution to offer:

Whereas the grave of Chancellor George Wythe, in the churchyard of St. John's church, Richmond, Va., is unmarked,

Resolved, That the President of this Association appoint a committee of three, who shall ascertain as nearly as possible the locality of the said grave and report to this body at its next session, and at the same time report what will be the cost of a suitable stone to be placed at or near said grave.

The resolution was adopted.

The President: I name as such committee Messrs. W. W. Henry, of Richmond; R. G. H. Kean, of Lynchburg; and R. M. Hughes, of Norfolk.

The President: The next business is a paper by John Randolph Tucker, of Lexington, entitled "Property Rights of Baron and Feme."

Mr. Tucker then read his paper.

(*See Appendix.*)

The President: The next business is the report of the Special Committee on Law Reform, which was made the special order for this morning at this hour.

S. S. P. Patteson, of Richmond: Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Virginia State Bar Association,—At the last annual meeting the following resolution was offered by me:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Association that law and equity procedure should be consolidated, so that legal and equitable rights can be administered in one form of action.

This was referred to a special committee, consisting of myself, R. T. W. Duke, Thomas S. Martin, George M. Cochran and Robert M. Hughes. Mr. Hughes resigned in the spring of 1891. His place was supplied by Mr. William M. Lile, of Lynchburg. The report, in accordance with the resolution, was printed and distributed more than a month ago; since its distribution it has been signed by all of the members except Mr. Cochran, so that four out of five recommend the adoption of the resolution. As to the bill and other suggestions contained in the report, that is only intended for argument in its support. The reasons given for the recommendation to adopt the resolution are brief, and it is perhaps proper that I should add something more by way of explanation.

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