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### Henry Moore Bates

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## HENRY MOORE BATES

The important changes in the administrative force of the University this year have been of especial significance to the Law Department. It is a matter for congratulation that a new Dean has been chosen from the present Faculty, thus assuring the continuation of the successful policy of the past without essential break.

Our Dean elect comes honestly by the New England conscience which is so prominent a characteristic of his mature life. Both parents were of old Puritan stock. His father, George C.

Bates, a Vermonter by birth, spent his life in railroad administration with the exception of the four years of the Civil War, during which he served his country, first as lieutenant and later as quartermaster. His mother, Alice E. Moore, a native of Massachusetts, has spent most of her mature life in the South and West as a teacher and school administrator, acting as principal of the Girls' High School, of New Orleans, and then of the Park Institute, in Chicago. To those who know them both, it is very evident

that the intellectual and moral qualities of the mother have been reproduced in the oldest son.

Henry Moore Bates was born in Chicago, March 3, 1869. He spent his boyhood days in that city and gained his preparation for college in Park Institute and in the West Division High School. He received the degree of Ph.B. from the University of Michigan, in 1890, and the degree of LL.B. from Northwestern University in 1892. Shortly after his graduation he was married to Clara Belfield, of the class of 1892 (Wellesley). They have one daughter, Helen. The high qualities possessed by Mrs. Bates have made her a worthy sharer in their joint success in life and under her guidance we may be sure that the high social ideals of their position will be properly realized.

Mr. Bates began his professional career in Chicago, in the offices of Williams, Holt and Wheeler, whose business is largely corporation law, the firm numbering among its clients the Santa Fe Ry. Co., The Illinois Steel Co., The Western Union Telegraph Co., and The Wells, Fargo Express Co. Later he was in the offices of Norton, Burley and Howell, Attorneys for the Northern Pacific Ry., who also did a large probate and administration business. He served as Assistant Librarian of Chicago Law Institute from 1895 to 1898. During his term of office, he exercised practically entire control of this library, as the librarian is merely an honorary officer without active duties. The large knowledge of legal literature and bibliography gained during the incumbency of this office has been utilized for the benefit of the library of the Law Department of the University of Michigan during his residence here as professor of law. In 1898 he resigned his library position to enter the office of John Maynard Harlan as a quasi partner, a relation which was soon changed to a full partnership in the firm of Harlan and Bates. During

these years his Alma Mater had been making efforts to bring him back to her service, offering him successively an instructorship in European history, an instructorship in American history, and an assistant professorship in law. When the place left vacant by the withdrawal of Professor Mechem from the Law Faculty was offered to Mr. Bates, in 1903, he accepted it, and performed with great credit to himself the duties of this position until February, 1910. At this time he offered his resignation to the Regents in order to enter into the partnership of Robson, Bates and George, of Detroit. This resignation was tabled by the Board of Regents until a new President should be appointed for the University. When Dean Hutchins was finally persuaded to accept the Presidency, the Regents turned to Mr. Bates as his most suitable successor as Dean of the Law Department, and in spite of the entangling business alliance made by Mr. Bates, who had already taken up the work of the new firm, the Regents unanimously elected him to the vacant deanship. Luckily for the Law Department, Messrs. Robson and George kindly yielded their claims in favor of the University and the new dean entered upon the discharge of his duties on August 23, of the present year.

The varied experience of Mr. Bates has made of him the rather rare combination of a practical man of affairs and a teacher with high scholarly and educational ideals. He seems to be equally successful in dealing with business men and with college boys. During his residence in Chicago he was actively interested in all projects for social betterment and intellectual uplift. He served as an officer of the Civic Federation and as a working committeeman on the Municipal Voters' League. He was for a long time Secretary and later Vice-President, of the Chicago Alumni Association. His constant solicitude for the University and his staunch defense of her in-



**HENRY MOORE BATES, '90**  
**DEAN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW**

*Photograph by Randall & Pack*

terests, especially in our troublesome athletic relations, gave him the commonly applied appellation of Henry M[ichigan] Bates. Nor did he abate his interest in these more general concerns of the University when he took up his professional duties here. He was for several years a member of the Board of Control of Athletics and has been more influential than any other one man in creating and directing the Michigan Union, which he has served as Treasurer and Director. It was also through his efforts that the money was raised for the portrait by Chase of Dr. Angell.

He has found time during the seven years of his professorship to contribute frequently to the *Michigan Law Review*, and to acquaint himself with what was the best in the field of legal education, by constant attendance on the meetings of the Association of American Law Schools and by frequent visits to neighboring institutions. In the summer of 1908 he was invited to take charge of the course in Wills and Administration in the Summer Session of the Chicago Law School. He has served for two years on the Executive Committee of the Association of American Law Schools and on the committee for the formulation of a course of university study for students who are planning to take up the study of law.

In his dealings with students in the Athletic Association, in the Michigan Union and in the various other student organizations, he has shown great aptitude in winning their confidence and respect. That this high esteem by the student body has not been due to any catering to the weaknesses of the college boy is evidenced by the fact that the courses in Sales and in Wills were generally considered by the students, as well as by his colleagues, among the most difficult and also the most valuable in the Department. In addition to his connection with Alpha Delta Phi and many other student organizations he is a member of the American Bar Association, the Michigan State Bar Association, the American Political Science Association, Phi Beta Kappa, the Scientific Club, the Chicago Literary Club, the University Club of Chicago and the University Club of Detroit.

All friends of the Law Department may feel sure that under the leadership of Dean Bates the fine traditions of the department will be preserved and that all improvements in the technical and scholarly phases of law school administration, coming from any source whatsoever, will be accepted and used to advance the highest interests of legal education.

JOSEPH H. DRAKE, '85, '02l.