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## James Barr Ames

James H. Brewster

*University of Michigan Law School*

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# MICHIGAN LAW REVIEW

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## NOTE AND COMMENT.

JAMES BARR AMES.—Hardly shall one name another American lawyer whose death would be as widely felt as will be that of James Barr Ames. He passed away on January eighth in the sixty-fourth year of his age.

He was endowed by nature with rare gifts which he devoted most unselfishly and earnestly to the advancement of the science of law. For more than thirty-five years he had been a teacher of law, and in that important work he exercised an influence for good upon thousands of his pupils which cannot be adequately measured. Moreover, while he never practiced law, he had won the entire respect of the profession by reason of his preëminent rank as a scholarly lawyer. He was a man of innate courtesy and was personally so attractive that one meeting him but casually was drawn to him as to a sympathetic friend. He was genuinely modest and yet, when difference of opinion arose, he was kindly—if sometimes impulsively—firm in his advocacy of principles which he was convinced were right. He was an inspiring teacher and possessed the admirable faculty of making his pupils think for themselves.

In addition to his professorship he had for the last fifteen years held the responsible office of Dean of the Harvard Law School, and in both vocations

he had shown such industry, patience, kindness and helpfulness as to inspire the faculty and students of his school with respect and gratitude.

Always a most industrious and profound student of the history of the common law, he published some of the results of his studies in the form of essays that will live long after his grateful pupils have themselves passed away. He also compiled and edited valuable collections of cases on the subjects of torts, pleading, bills and notes, partnership, trusts, suretyship, admiralty and equity jurisdiction. It is doubly regrettable that the burden of his cares as dean and teacher not only probably shortened his useful career, but also prevented the accomplishment of a greater amount of literary work.

For about twenty years he had been a member of the American Bar Association, and was of course, always actively interested in questions concerning legal education that were discussed at meetings of the association. For several recent years he also rendered efficient service to the cause of uniformity of legislation as a member of the Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.

His work has been well done and will live, but he will probably be best remembered by all who knew him for what he was, rather than for what he did.

J. H. B.

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