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This issue is dedicated to the memory of Edgar Noble Durfee

RESOLUTION OF THE MICHIGAN LAW FACULTY ON THE DEATH OF EDGAR NOBLE DURFEE

EDGAR NOBLE DURFEE died on July 5, 1958, at the age of seventy-six, forty-seven years after beginning his teaching in the University of Michigan Law School and six years after his retirement. Centering his interests on those areas of the law strongly influenced by the creativity of the Chancery, he was one of the true masters of Equity, and made significant contributions to the teaching of Creditors' Rights and Security Transactions. His case-books and other writings bear the mark of distinguished scholarship.

As a teacher and scholar, Edgar Durfee showed those qualities which often appear contradictory but only need to be in balance as they were in him. He had an intense interest in and rarely equalled ability to deal with the day to day, often highly technical, problems of the law. At the same time he had a depth and breadth of understanding of the whole legal system that few could equal. Seeking that wisdom which comes, in his own phrase, from a "patient shaping of details," he developed the knowledge and insight for generalization, an ability that grows in importance as the law grows in complexity. Yet he seemed always able to avoid the mistake of over-generalization, as only a subtle and discriminating mind can do. He held deep convictions on the moral basis of the legal order, yet he never hesitated to re-examine his own assumptions or put them to the searching test of practical consequences. His was a complex, original, inquiring mind, always seeking the deeper relationships and meanings in experience.

As a man he was as gentle as he was wise. He had a youthfulness of attitude and outlook, a keen interest in the affairs of the day which time left unaffected. In music he found a deep sustaining power. He loved conversation with his friends, young and old,

and in argument he was a formidable opponent. Yet the sharp shafts of his wit were always tempered with humor and a radiating kindness. He had a faith in youth which inspired his teaching until the end, and he never ceased to teach. Many members of the Michigan law faculty who started in law as his students still claimed that privileged role after they became his colleagues.

Edgar Durfee was the kind of teacher about whom school legends grow. Whether or not the events related in many of them ever happened matters little, since they are faithful to the spirit of the man and reflect the esteem and often the affection of his students. Nor did these legends pass with his retirement or death. They remain to add color and texture to the Michigan tradition.

We, the faculty of the University of Michigan Law School, pay an affectionate tribute to Edgar Durfee. This school, the legal profession and all who came to know him will long remain his debtors.