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In Memoriam Paul Fuller.

PAUL FULLER, one of the founders of the Fordham Law School, its first Dean, and one of its most loyal and unselfish friends, died suddenly in this City on Monday, November 29th. He was born in 1848 on the clipper ship "Thomas F. Perkins" bound for the Golden Gate, of William Fuller and Margaret Shuffleton. His mother died before the ship reached San Francisco, and the first years of his life were spent with friends of his father's, a Spanish family then residing in California. It was here that Mr. Fuller learned Spanish as though it were his native tongue, and it was here likewise, that he received his first instruction in the Catholic faith which ever thereafter remained his most precious possession and was the real foundation for those beautiful characteristics which made him respected and beloved by so many.

When Mr. Fuller was about five years old, his father brought him across the continent and entered him at an early age at the school of the late Charles Coudert, an officer in the Old Guard of Napoleon I, who had been obliged to emigrate to this country because of his activities as a Bonapartist. Here young Paul Fuller found a congenial atmosphere, where his refined and religious instincts developed steadily. Here also he received a thorough knowledge of French, as well as his first insight into what is best in French Culture, which was destined to play such a large part in his life. Upon leaving school young Mr. Fuller entered into the study of law, and later having married Leonie Coudert, the daughter of his old schoolmaster, he joined his three brothers-in-law to practice law under the firm name of Coudert Brothers, of which firm he was the senior partner at the time of his death.

Mr. Fuller's extraordinarily broad sympathies, his command of the French and Spanish languages, and his understanding of the

character and customs of their people, soon caused him to specialize in international law. He also took a deep interest in our constitutional law, and in writing to Prof. Thorpe of the University of Pittsburg, as Dean of Fordham Law School, he once said:

"I have always considered the teaching of Constitutional Law an essential of a Law School Course. That much of a political science, should at least, be made a part of any law curriculum. Your outline seems to me eminently satisfactory, especially Items (1) and (2) of Section A. The historical background of the Constitution, the circumstances which made it necessary, the compromises which were unavoidable to insure its adoption and the application of its leading principles to changing conditions through the interpretation of the Courts—these are the things it seems to me that students of law should be thoroughly grounded in, and I believe it is the lack of this knowledge at the Bar, on the Bench and throughout the educated community, which is largely responsible for much of the political dissatisfaction and unrest of today."

For the past thirty years Mr. Fuller and his partners were identified with many of the most celebrated cases involving questions of international law, and he had at various times represented the governments of France, Great Britain and Russia in matters of the gravest importance. In the field of constitutional law he was perhaps best known for his connection with the so-called insular cases, which decided the status of our outlying possessions.

It would be inappropriate in a sketch of this kind to attempt to review in detail the purely professional services which Mr. Fuller rendered at the Bar. The one note, however, which stands out through all his activities as a lawyer is the high professional ideals to which he always clung, and the really sincere desire that possessed him to instill these high ideals in the minds of the students and younger lawyers with whom he came in contact. When, therefore, he was approached by the President of Fordham University in 1905 and asked to co-operate in the founding of a law school, although he was overburdened with professional duties, and civic and charitable activities, he grasped the opportunity and entered into the work with a wholehearted and disinterested spirit.

In one of his first talks to the law school he helped to found, he addressed the students in part as follows:

"The days of chivalry are not past. Its substance endures as all true and noble things must endure. But its manifestations have passed in large part from Knight Errantry to the learned professions; the teacher, the doctor, the investigator into the origin of human ailments, the lawyer, harbor, if they are equal to the demands of their respective vocations, some at least of the chivalric spirit of devotion and sacrifice for the relief of the unfortunate, which in mediaeval times centred in the Knighthood of that day."

Again, while urging Governor Whitman, then Judge Whitman, to accept an invitation to speak before the Fordham Alumni in 1913, he wrote:

"The Fordham Law School is aiming high in the training of young lawyers, and a word of encouragement from you would help them and help the Faculty by making it clear that their high standard is the only one that can really serve the community."

During the time of Mr. Fuller's deanship he delivered a course of lectures on legal ethics, and the message he strove to impart to the students cannot be better summed up than in his own words:

"I wish to present one single thought for your consideration, and I shall do so by emphasizing the underlying purpose of your careful training. That purpose is to weave into the warp and woof of your every act the unyielding and indestructible fibre of integrity."

Mr. Fuller continued as Dean until 1913 and had the satisfaction, before tendering his resignation, of knowing that the Fordham Law School had developed into a powerful institution, whose standards of study and ethics justified his hopes and labors.

"'The law and its practice,' wrote a friend of Mr. Fuller's, 'occupied only an alcove in the library of Paul Fuller's mind. * * * The philosophic and literary interests for which he laid broad foundations in his youth were never abandoned in later life but were kept under constant cultivation.'"

His greatest delight was, perhaps, books, and his library of some thirty thousand volumes is entirely the result of his own careful—I might almost say, affectionate—collecting.

He was as familiar with French and Spanish literature as English and American; in fact his wonderful comprehension of French and the grace and ease with which he used it, earned for him the Cross of the Legion of Honor.

Far greater than mere accomplishments of the mind were the qualities of real goodness, never failing charity and perfect faith which all of his friends recognized in Mr. Fuller. Even those amongst his friends and acquaintances belonging to different faiths recognized the real beauty of his religious convictions. On one occasion while on a mission for his government, he found himself on a Sunday morning with a great Military Leader in the neighboring republic, who was well known for his opposition to orthodox religious belief. This man had in fact often been accused of religious intolerance and persecution. In the midst of an important conference Mr. Fuller arose looking at his watch and said he must terminate the interview in order to be in time for Mass, and asked his interlocutor to direct him to the nearest Catholic Church. The General (for such was his rank), called his aide and instructed him to accompany Mr. Fuller so that he would be in time for Mass, and later he told Mr. Fuller how much the incident impressed him.

Such a life cannot be without its inspiration and encouragement for those who are laboring in the same paths in which he travelled, and may the students and graduates at Fordham ever uphold the ideals of this high-minded lawyer and Catholic gentleman who was their first dean.