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## ADDRESS OF Felipe Natividad, Presenting the Memorial of the 1915 Law Class

The Graduating Class of the College of Law have great pleasure to present as a gift to the University of the Philippines, a painting which symbolizes "LAW." It is a reproduction of a picture which adorns one of the halls of the capitol of the United States, executed by the master hands of one of our ablest native artists. The original of this painting is of wide-world fame; it has been produced and reproduced in many magazines and other publications in the United States. While we are not fortunate enough to have the privilege of seeing the original itself, yet we believe that this copy is an exact one, and fully conveys the idea that the original intended to present.

I do not think it is appropriate to indulge in any extended description of the merits of this picture as a work of art. Apart from my ignorance of this branch of learning, the fact that I am a member of the Graduating Class, lays me open to the charge of being biased. I think, however, that it would not be amiss to speak of the motives that moved the 1915-Laws to select this picture as its memorial.

The members of the Graduating Class are all students of history and are fully aware of its lessons as to the value of the law. They are conscious of the fact that in all great political events the law has always played an important part. If we examine the world's history and trace through the ages the influence which the law has exerted upon civilization, we cannot fail to admire the splendid service it has rendered to humanity. Beginning with the Ten Commandments which God gave to his chosen people, down to the fundamental laws of our modern republics, we behold a chain of legal institutions, the significance of which it is not given to human tongue to describe. Among these legal institutions are the laws of Solon and Lycurgus, which commanded universal admiration and won for Greece the distinction of being the

teacher of the world; the Laws of the Twelve Tables, which secured for the Roman citizens their rights and privileges and put an end to the bloody struggle between the patricians and the plebeians of ancient Rome; the Magna Charta, which secured for the English people their rights and privileges and put a check on the prerogatives of the English crown; the Constitution of the United States, which, according to Gladstone, is "the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man;" but foremost among these legal institutions is the Great Corpus Juris, which has come down to us, untouched by the hands of time, as one of the grandest monuments of human wisdom of the ages gone by. Who can fully appreciate and realize the influence these legal institutions have exerted on the jurisprudence of the world?

It is for impartial history, to answer this question. The limited bounds of human intellect dare not attempt to do it. All that we know is that law has ever been the conserving and preserving power which defends and protects the life, the liberty, and the property of the citizen. It has at all times been the impregnable bulwark of the weak against the oppression and tyranny of the strong. It is the foundation of every state, and the power that maintains the equilibrium between the individual and society. It is the force that planted democracy on a foundation which is firm and immovable. It is the strongest ally of civilization, the surest refuge against wrong, the most powerful defender of injured people. Law has often been checked, often thwarted and even defeated and overthrown; but its irresistible power has, in the end, always triumphed. From the ashes of defeat it has often arisen and amid the splendor of its might and power, has shone in the firmament of history, luminous like the eternal stars.

With this meagre outline I close my humble tribute to the majesty of the law. It would be idle to attempt to discuss it further. We behold on every side its monuments. Large cities, flourishing villages, cultivated fields, millions of happy homes and prosperous people, churches, asylums and hospitals, institutions of learning, great nations and states—these are the more enduring and more lasting monuments of law. Wherever her temples stand, there is a foundation for social security and happiness.

Alive, therefore, to these incontrovertible facts of impartial history, it was not strange that the Graduating Class should have seen fit to offer, as a gift to their Alma Mater, a picture symbolic of "LAW," the very thing for which for four long years they have suffered trials and tribulations. But while it is their desire to pay tribute to the law, yet their principal object is to give their Alma Mater a testimonial of gratitude. Behind, therefore, this picture of law are thirty-four grateful hearts. In

behalf of these grateful hearts I speak to-night. It is in their behalf that I entreat you, gentlemen of the Board of Regents, to accept in behalf of the University of the Philippines of which you are the distinguished and worthy representatives this beautiful picture, which we most humbly present to you.

As we leave this University to battle with the world, we cannot forget all that it has done for us. We cannot forget that four years ago we came to it strangers, utterly ignorant of the law; that we were admitted to the institution and by it given protection; that it has molded our mind and character, and made of us men. To the Honorable President of the University and Members of the Board of Regents, to the distinguished Dean and Faculty of the College of Law, we give our most heartfelt thanks. We pledge to you our loyalty and gratitude. Though our association will soon be severed, and we will leave to you nothing but this picture, yet you and each one of you will have a place in our hearts which time cannot efface. As we scatter throughout these Islands to work with our people we will carry with us your teachings and examples. We will also carry deep in our hearts the memory of this University, which will ever be a source of inspiration to us. Difficulties, we know, will be encountered in the practice of our chosen profession, but with your help and guidance we sincerely hope to succeed.

Wherefore, with all gratitude, in the presence of this distinguished audience, we lay in your hands this beautiful picture as the class memorial, the gift of the class of 1915-Laws to the University of the Philippines.