

**LEGAL PHILADELPHIA:  
COMMENTS  
AND MEMORIES**

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Legal Philadelphia: comments and memories by Robert Davison Coxo

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**ROBERT DAVISON COXE**

**LEGAL PHILADELPHIA:  
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AND MEMORIES**



# Legal Philadelphia

COMMENTS AND MEMORIES

By  
ROBERT DAVISON COXE  
*Of the Philadelphia Bar*

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PHILADELPHIA  
WILLIAM J. CAMPBELL  
1908

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## PRELIMINARY AND DEDICATORY.

Let me venture to believe that almost a half-century's membership of the Philadelphia bar, including occasional appearances in other Pennsylvania jurisdictions, and of other States, as well as observation of foreign courts, may serve as my adequate credentials, in the present emergency, in view of some asperities of expression.

Within little more than a twelvemonth, without the intermediary of a tipstaff, bearing my visiting card, or any ceremony whatever, I was cordially welcomed to the private office in the City Hall of a younger member of the Philadelphia judiciary. My visit, a professional one, was brief, solely because of my inability to accept the courteously tendered hospitality of the judge and an associate in chambers.

## OLD TIME JUDGES AND LAWYERS

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In the confident hope that this unwonted and commendable treatment of a brother lawyer and officer of their courts, heralded a new and desirable dispensation, I take pleasure in respectfully dedicating these modest utterances to the honorable judges whose humanity and civility are thus gratefully chronicled.

## SOCIAL SIDE OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION.

Fairmount Park, in Philadelphia, in its early days, before the inexorable requirements of the public weal made impossible unimpeachable conviviality and resultant genteel good-fellowship on the part of those who conscientiously complied with Victor Hugo's sensible *dictum* :

“Buvons pour avoir de l'esprit  
Et non pour le détruire :”—

was the scene of cheerful Sundays and bright summer holidays, both at Belmont and Strawberry Mansion ; when and where was wont to congregate a coterie of lawyers, nearly all of whom have since joined the great majority. The recollection of these incomparably enjoyable episodes compels the thought that the picturesque and genuinely social side of our professional life is