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## Great Sayings by Great Lawyers, by G. J. Clark

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## NOTICES

(These *Notices* are *preliminary*; they do not preclude *Reviews* later.)

*Great Sayings by Great Lawyers*, by G. J. Clark. Vernon Law Book Co: Kansas City, Missouri. 1926. Pp. 800. Price \$2.00.

This book purports to bring together famous sayings by distinguished lawyers and arrange them with an adequate index so that they can be used. There is undoubtedly a real field of usefulness for such a book; and this book may well serve the needs of the profession and others until a better book in the same field is prepared.

It is a matter of great pleasure and value to have access to a large number of the significant comments on different matters, especially in the field of the law, which have been made by distinguished lawyers. Undoubtedly this book in point of selection and quantity fills the need very well. The book contains 800 pages and the print is small though not hard to read, a great deal of matter being placed on each page. Here the reader will find a great many of the famous sayings with which he may be casually familiar but which he has never seen in accurate form. The index, while not exhaustive nor accurate as the indices are to the standard books of quotations, is nevertheless reasonably dependable for ready reference. It is a delight to be able to turn to some of the famous sayings by Joseph Choate, Luther Martin, Patrick Henry, William Work, Wirt Dexter, Daniel Webster and the long line of distinguished lawyers in England. The subjects upon which they have commented are of especial interest to the lawyer in so far as they deal with professional matters but many of them will be delighted because the range of subject is as broad as the humanities themselves.

The reviewer speaks of certain defects not to detract from the book itself but in the hope that such reference may bring to our attention the importance of a better book in the field for the future. Bartlett's *Familiar Quotations* and the other books in this field that have succeeded it are at once of universal service and delight. Should not the legal profession within its particular field have a work of similar accuracy, completeness and scholarship? Compared with these famous books of quotations, Mr. Clark's book seems unsatisfactory. For one thing his picture adorns the frontis-piece with his signature underneath it and the reviewer is so far narrow-minded as to feel that that sort of thing is out of place in a book of this kind. Underneath the title of the book, "Great Sayings by Great Lawyers" we have a second title, "Immortal Thoughts Snatched From Oblivion." The reviewer feels further that this second title is on somewhat the same level in point of taste as the frontis-piece. The book itself is inaccurate in containing a number of sayings by men who were not lawyers and had no legal training whatever. We are all unanimous in our admiration for George Washington, Henry Ward Beecher, and Theodore Roosevelt. Their comments may be of much greater value than those by many lawyers; yet it seems inappropriate to include quotations from them in a volume that purports to cover only sayings by lawyers. In certain instances the editor has placed a short biographical note at the beginning of quotations from certain lawyers; it would seem that such brief biographical notes should

appear in every instance. Usually the editor has placed the name of the author first and then listed quotations from him following his name. But this is not always the case and in some instances it is confusing to find an isolated quotation that does not appear under the name of any individual. The reader is indebted to the editor for occasional cross-references and notes in explanation of certain quotations. These seem to be admirable; where they appear they are often fuller and more helpful than corresponding records in other books of quotations. The reader has the impression, however, that they have not been supplied in every instance where they would be helpful.