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Alexander Marsden Kidd

*Raymond E. Peters**

AFTER NEARLY forty-five years of teaching at the University of California Law School, Alexander Marsden Kidd is retiring. Over the past half century the "Captain" and his famous green eye shade have become as much a part of the University as the Campanile. Presidents have come and gone, deans have flourished and departed, professors have had their brief day in the sun, but the "Captain," year after year, has gone on and on continuing to leave an indelible and lasting impression on each generation of law students. Likable, lovable, admired and esteemed, every graduate of Boalt Hall has delightful and precious memories of his association with "Captain" Kidd.

The "Captain" received his A.B. from the University of California, and his LL.B. from the Harvard Law School. For many years he engaged in the active practice of the law in San Francisco, where he made an enviable record. But teaching was his principal love. As early as 1905 he accepted a part-time instructor's position in the then law department of the University. By 1919 he had determined that teaching was his chosen field, and since that year he has been a full professor of law. All but two of his teaching years—1926 to 1928 spent at Columbia—have been devoted to Boalt Hall. His main subjects have been Criminal Law, Criminology, Legal Medicine, Evidence, Sales, Labor Law, Agency, Practice and Procedure, Bills and Notes, and Security Transactions. In those fields he has left an enduring mark. Those who have sat at his feet will never forget what and how he taught them. A tough marker, a martinet in the classroom, and occasionally an irascible one, but shy, retiring, helpful and always lovable outside the classroom, each generation of law students has gone forth better human beings for having known him. Will any of us ever forget his course in Practice? Will we ever forget the experience of trying to serve him with process and having to chase him all over the library, and sometimes over the campus, his coat tails flying, in order to get him to accept service? Will we ever forget that day when the class, as a whole, was dumber than usual, and, after four or five of us had announced that we were unprepared, that ever present eye shade began going up and down on the crinkled brow, followed by an his-

* Presiding Justice, District Court of Appeals, First District, Division One.

toric dressing down of the entire class, and the "Captain" stalking from the room, thoroughly disgusted? And the only way we got him back on the teaching platform was to file a formal petition!

The "Captain" has brought to the law teaching profession a fresh, original, idealistic, but always practical, approach. He has been a prolific writer in his chosen field. Fifty-seven articles on Criminal Law, Evidence, Procedure, Contracts and Mortgages are lasting memorials to his erudition. These articles, frequently cited by the courts, have profoundly affected the development of the law in those fields. But the "Captain" has, by no means, limited his activities to teaching. He has been a member of the California Code Commission since its inception, except for one short period. His advice and knowledge have been invaluable in the work of that most important body. He has been a member of the important Committee on Administration of Justice of the California State Bar for many years. As one who served with him on that Committee I can attest how valuable his services were there. He did a magnificent job as a member of a Board that fixed minimum hours and standards of employment for the canning industry. A list of a few of his other activities demonstrates how broad have been his interests, how wide his vision—member of the Legal Aid Societies of Alameda County and of the City and County of San Francisco; informal consultant for the Governor's Commission on Criminal Law and Procedure; arbitrator of labor disputes; member of various committees of the Association of American Law Schools; acting dean of the School of Jurisprudence from 1942 to 1944, etc., etc.

We all know that the "Captain" is a great scholar and an excellent teacher. He has given freely of his talents, advice and practical aid to every important liberal cause of the past half century. But above all, he is a great human being. His many, many kindnesses, known only to the recipients, his thoughtfulness, yes, his sweetness, will never be forgotten by those of us fortunate enough to know him. "Captain," you can be sure that wherever Boalt Hall students may congregate, you will be there. You may retire from the school, but never from our hearts. May the Good Lord spare you for many years to come.



ALEXANDER MARSDEN KIDD