

in these long forgotten treasures, it is exceedingly probable that the law of Montreal to-day would have been an entirely different thing. It was on the foundations laid by them that the lawyers of France, of Germany, of Italy, of Spain, of Holland, and of Scotland built the modern civil law. No doubt, the legal lore of the Middle Age degenerated into a mass of dreary pedantry, copied from one book into another, until it came, as Mephistopheles wittily says in Faust, to be handed down like a hereditary disease.

Es erben sich Gesetz und Rechte  
Wie eine ewige Krankheit fort.

But the second great revival of legal study had its origin like the first in a university. The first breath of the modern spirit which blew on these dry bones of mediæval law and made them live was in the little University of Bourges, where two professors, Cujas and Doneau, began a long line of distinguished French Jurists.

I have said enough, however, to support my statement that modern jurisprudence may be said to have been cradled in the universities. How much it has since owed to the writings of university teachers it would take too long to tell.

Cujas, the greatest legal writer of the 16th century, was, as I have just said, a professor at Bourges. His nine folios, packed with learning, have been a mine of material for all generations of lawyers since his time. Vinnius and J. Voet, in the 17th and early 18th centuries, added lustre to the University of Leyden. Pothier was 22 years a professor at Orléans, and in his modesty said that his works were written only for his students. The substance of Blackstone's famous commentaries was delivered by him as professional lectures at Oxford in 1758 and several years following.

His literary activity was exactly contemporaneous with that of Potinier. Each of these great men rendered to the law of his country a service of incalculable value. The famous series of books by Mr. Justice Story, among the best legal works which America has produced, consist of his professorial lectures at Harvard. Among other writers who occupied professorial chairs, I can only mention Toullier, who was a professor at Rennes; Demolombe, at Caen; Laurent, at Ghent. Among the modern Germans, Savigny, a professor at Berlin, Puchta, and Windscheid at Leipzig, Mommsen, at Breslau. The last of the great French commentaries—that now appearing under the name of M. Baudry-Lacantinierie—is by nine university professors. Among living English writers who hold university chairs the names of Sir William Anson, Sir Frederick Pollock, Mr. Holland, Mr. Dicey and Mr. Maitland, are equally well known on both sides of the Atlantic.