

“ Comme si les grandes destinées de Rome n'étaient pas encore accomplies, elle règne sur toute la terre par sa raison, après avoir cessé d'y régner par son autorité. On dirait en effet que la justice n'a pleinement dévoilé ses mystères qu'aux Jurisconsultes Romains. Législateurs encore plus que Jurisconsultes, de simples particuliers dans l'obscurité de la vie privée, ont mérité, par la supériorité de leurs lumières, de donner des lois à toute la postérité ; lois aussi étendues que durables ; toutes les nations les interrogent encore, et chacune en reçoit des réponses d'une éternelle vérité ! ” *

With this eloquent testimony before us, of the wisdom which pervades the laws bequeathed by the Romans to mankind, and coming, as that testimony does, from a source so exalted and of so unquestionable an authority, it would be indeed presumptuous in me to add anything of my own to press upon the attention of my hearers, the importance of the study of those laws, by him who would aspire to become either eminent as a Jurist or wise as a Magistrate or Legislator.

I therefore, with this citation, take leave of my subject, more than ever convinced that there is as much truth as elegance in the thought and the language of Pothier, when he tells us that, with reference to her laws, Rome is our common country—*Romam communem LEGUM PATRIAM confessus est.*

* “ Everything in it (Roman Jurisprudence) still breathes that exalted tone of Wisdom, that profound good sense, in short that spirit of legislation which has been the especial and distinguishing characteristic of the masters of the World. As if the great destinies of Rome had not yet been fulfilled, she still reigns through the empire of her reason, after having ceased to reign thro' the conquests of her legions. It would indeed seem as if the mysteries of the Temple of Justice had been revealed in their plenitude but to the favored Jurists of the Eternal City. Legislators far more than Jurisconsults, mere citizens dwelling in the retirement of private life, were, through the superiority of their enlightenment, found worthy of giving laws to all posterity, laws as vast and comprehensive in their scope as they are enduring ; all nations consult them still, and each receives from them responses stamped with eternal truth.”