

**Strawberry Hill, Needham, Massachussets. Christmas 1929. This Christmas I ask my friends to accept with my seasonable good wishes the broadside printed on the reverse of this. It is made up from two little-known versions of Psalm LXXXII**

Strawberry Hill, Needham, Massachusetts.

Christmas, 1929.

This Christmas I ask my friends to accept with my seasonable good wishes the broadside printed on the reverse of this. It is made up from two little-known versions of Psalm LXXXII: the one by John Milton, and the other by Sir Philip Sidney and his sister the Countess of Pembroke.

The Psalm as we know it in the King James Bible and in the English Prayer Book does not express the thought about justice as a guiding principle which is so well set forth in these versions. The Jewish version, however, clearly expresses the same fundamental idea that the law should be no respecter of persons.

I have used for a title line the fine phrase of John Adams in the Massachusetts Constitution of 1780, which also declares the ideal. Where he wrote "laws" I wish I could have changed it to "law," because in these days of multiplied statutes the plural has a meaning objectionable to many minds.

For a lawyer's creed is there anything so good?

The nearest comparable things are the phrase of John Adams just mentioned and the promise in Magna Carta that "to no man will we deny justice." After many centuries we are still striving toward this ideal. The Bar and especially those who are interested in legal aid for the poor may well accept the Psalmist as their spokesman.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas, I am

*Yours very truly,* Richard Walden Hale.

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(over)

FOR A GOVERNMENT OF LAWS AND NOT OF MEN THE STANDARDS OF THE PSALMIST

From Psalm LXXXII "done into Metre, "April, 1648, by J[ohn] M[ilton], where "in all but what is a different Character, "are the very words of the Text, "translated from the Original."

Regard the weak and fatherless Dispatch the poor mans cause, And raise the man in deep distress  
By just and equal Lawes. Defend the poor and desolate, And rescue from the hands Of wicked men  
the low estate Of him *that help demands*.

From the same as translated by Sir Philip Sidney and his sister, the Countess of Pembroke.

Where poore men plead at princes barre, Who gods (as God's vicegerents) are: The God of gods hath  
his tribunall pight, Adjudging right Both to the judge, and judged wight.

How long will ye just doome neglect? How long, saith he, bad men respect? You should his owne  
unto the hellesse give, The poore releeve, Ease him with right, whom wrong doth greeve.

You should the fatherlesse defend: You should unto the weake extend Your hand, to loose and quiet  
his estate Through lewd mens hate Entangled now in deepe debate.

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