

IX.

THE FOUNDING OF THE AMERICAN BAR
ASSOCIATION.

BY

SIMEON E. BALDWIN.

The first bar associations in the United States were naturally formed where it was easiest for lawyers to gather together, that is, in cities.

The Galveston Bar Association was organized in 1868; the "Association of the Bar of the City of New York" in 1870; and the Bar Association of St. Louis in 1874.

In 1874 (May 14) was also formed the Iowa State Bar Association, followed in 1875 (June 2) by the Connecticut State Bar Association.

The American Social Science Association, which had been founded in 1865, met in 1877, in Saratoga, New York. It had long had a Section or "department" of jurisprudence. A paper, that year, was read before it by Simeon E. Baldwin of Connecticut on "Graduate Courses in Law Schools." This led to some discussion, in which David Dudley Field, Chancellor William G. Hammond, General Alexander R. Lawton and William P. Wells took part, and, on motion of Carleton Hunt of the New Orleans Bar, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the influence of schools of law in promoting legal education in the United States has proved most beneficial; and the Association of Social Science commend the care, future encouragement, and future development of the schools to the members of the legal profession and to the friends of learning in general."

Another Louisiana lawyer who was attending the sessions of the department was F. P. Poché, and in a casual conversation between him and Mr. Baldwin, one of them remarked that it would be a good thing for the legal profession, if there were a special organization, to deal with the subject of jurisprudence in a broader way, in the shape of a national bar association. The other warmly approved the suggestion.