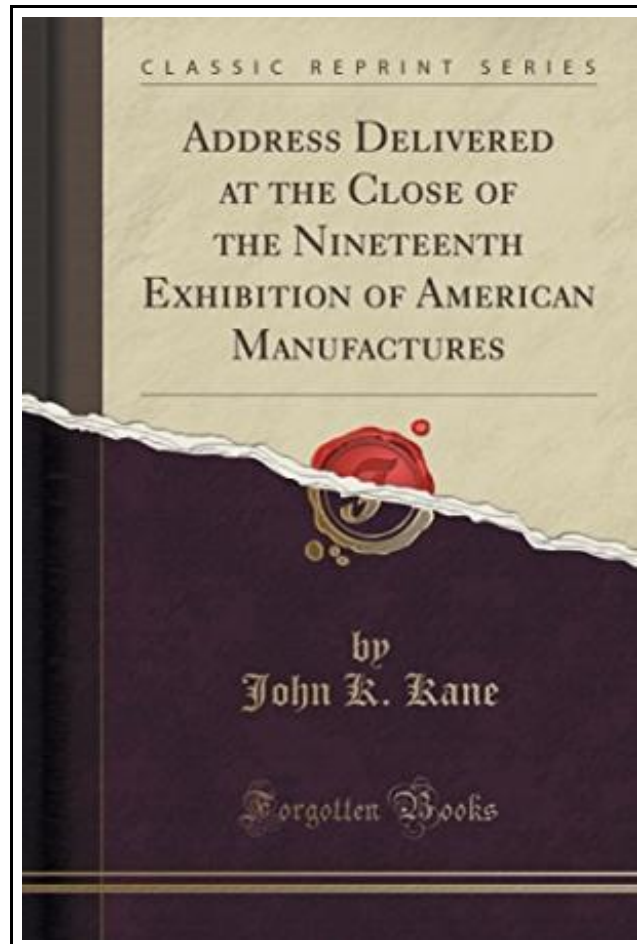


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Address Delivered at the Close of the Nineteenth Exhibition of American Manufactures The earliest patent law of the United States was passed by the first Congress that assembled under the Constitution. It was almost of course imperfect; for in the year 1790 no foreign nation had matured a system of provisions on the subject, from which ours could be profitably copied. Nevertheless it was a good law, and contrasted favorably with the law of England of that day: indeed, I have sometimes doubted whether, brief as it is, it does not furnish a better basis for the system than any of those which have followed it. But be this as it may, the legislation of more modern times, if less perfect in its outline, has been progressively more and more liberal in its details; and the Courts of Justice have contributed, by the increasing liberality of their interpretations, to amplify the benefits of the system. Yet it is still far from perfect: neither the patentee nor the public derives from it the full and appropriate measure of security and benefit. The author of a meritorious invention finds himself, not unfrequently, made poorer by the letters patent that profess to reward him; and the mechanical community is infested by swarms of impostors, who bear an apparent title, under the patent laws, to levy arbitrary exactions upon industry. Let me explain how this happens. An ingenious man has invented a labor-saving machine, and obtained a patent for it. He has begun to use it himself, and has sold licenses to others. It is a highly useful machine, we will suppose, - producing, it may be, an entire...



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