

JUSTICE EDWARD PATTERSON.

The death of EDWARD PATTERSON, formerly Presiding Judge of the Appellate Division, is a loss to New York in many ways. As a Judge he had high and unusual qualities. He was by nature and training an eager student, in the best sense, keen in analysis, clear and broad in vision, firm in grasp, and, above all, with an unquenchable and uncompromising desire for truth and justice. He had what may be called the intellectual as well as the moral conscience, and sophistry was as foreign to him as open dishonesty of conduct would have been.

To what may be called the professional study of the law he added study of the law from other points of view, the historical, the psychologic, and the literary. It was, in a very real sense, with him a study of the humanities. The personality of great Judges and advocates, the motives of monarchs and lawmakers, the influence of social forces and political tendencies upon the framing, the interpretation, the enforcement of laws, had for him an unflinching interest. His mind was as retentive and assimilative as it was active; it worked smoothly, with the grace and ease of fine co-ordination, and his talk was a constant source of interest and delight to those who were privileged to know him.

In his high office he was instinctively high minded, simply and inevitably loyal to a lofty standard, counting no effort or toil burdensome that promoted the right performance of its great functions. This is hardly the place to speak of the qualities of his private life. Suffice it to say that they won him the respect and affection of a wide circle.

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