

# MEMORIAL OF JUDGE BLATCHFORD.

## Tribute to His Character and Career by the Supreme Court Bar.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13.—In pursuance of the notice given by ex-Senator Edmunds, at the opening of the Supreme Court of the United States last Monday, members of the bar of that court gathered in its chambers this morning to pay their tribute of respect to the memory of the late Associate Justice Samuel Blatchford. There were present Mr. Edmunds, Joseph H. Choate, Julien T. Davies, and Esek Cowen of New-York; John M. Butler and Solomon Claypool of Indianapolis, J. M. Wilson, W. A. Maury, Calderon Carlisle, and Hubley T. Ashton of Washington, and others.

Mr. Choate was made Chairman of the meeting, and James H. McKinney, Clerk of the court, was made Secretary. Mr. Choate gave an eloquent and earnest review of the life, character, and services of Justice Blatchford.

Mr. Davies, Mr. Edmunds, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Maury, Mr. Carlisle, and Mr. Claypool, having been appointed to prepare a minute for the consideration of the meeting, reported, through Mr. Davies, the following:

Mr. Justice Blatchford has closed a judicial career of over twenty-five years. Appointed in 1876 to the bench as District Judge for the Southern District of New-York, he brought to the discharge of his judicial duties capacity for labor and habits of exhaustive research acquired during his experience for nine years at the bar in the quiet town of Auburn, together with the qualities of promptness in dispatch of business and quickness of apprehension that had been cultivated by thirteen years of active practice in the City of New-York.

His labors as District Judge will live in the shape and form that the law of bankruptcy and of admiralty received from his judicial hand.

Later, from 1872 until 1882, as Circuit Judge, the law of patents especially owes much in its development to his patient research and faithful exposition.

Appointed to the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States in 1882, he brought to the discharge of his high duties an intellect trained and disciplined by his former labors in directions especially adapted to increase his usefulness in his new sphere. In this great tribunal he was distinguished as theretofore for his careful study of his cases, his patient and full statements of facts, and his learned and luminous expositions of the law. Always he wrought to the full measure of his strength. He gave to the service of his chosen profession and of his country all that was best of himself. He concentrated all his energies upon his official duties. Neither pleasure nor change of mental occupation had much charm for him. His life work was the discharge of the functions of a Judge, and all his powers were concentrated to this lofty end.

Resolved, That in the death of Mr. Justice Blatchford his friends have lost a kind and amiable companion, his profession a conscientious and earnest brother, the Supreme Court of the United States a faithful, able, and industrious member, and the people of the United States an honest Judge.

Resolved, That the Attorney General be requested to lay this minute and these resolutions before the court, and to ask that they be spread on the record.

Resolved, That the Chairman be requested to transmit a copy of them to the family of Mr. Justice Blatchford.

The resolutions were supported in brief remarks by Mr. Davies, Mr. Maury, and Mr. Carlisle. They were then adopted and the meeting adjourned.