

In Memoriam.

HON. J. BREWSTER McCOLLUM.

On account of illness Chief Justice McCollum did not sit during the January, May and July terms, 1903. He died during the vacation, and on the opening of the court at Pittsburg on October 12 the following announcement was made by

CHIEF JUSTICE MITCHELL :

The court announces with profound regret the death of Chief Justice McCollum, who died at his home in Montrose early on Sunday morning, October 4, after a long illness, borne with exemplary patience and fortitude.

He was born September 28, 1832, in the county of Susquehanna, of which he remained a citizen during all his life. After an education in the local schools he took a professional course in the law school at Poughkeepsie, was admitted to the Bar in 1855, and entered on the practice at Montrose. His sound judgment, assiduous attention and high character brought him early and continued success.

In 1878 he was elected president judge of the district, and in 1888 to this court, becoming chief justice in 1900 on the death of Chief Justice Green.

Our late colleague was a man of deliberate but solid judgment. The district of Susquehanna was one in which, fortunately for it, the pressure of business was not such as to compel the hurry and drive of most business in this day, and therefore his experience in his long practice and in his judicial administration in his native district was such as not to impair the natural poise and deliberation of his character. He gave to each case close attention and unabated patience.

His views thus carefully reached were held with corresponding firmness, but with such tolerance and good temper as never to disturb the harmony of the consultation room. Personally he was of the most amiable and engaging disposition, and all of the surviving members of the court feel that they have lost not merely an official colleague, but also a personal friend.

It is ordered that this minute be entered on the records of the court.

On the opening of court on Thursday, March 31, 1904, George P.

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Little and A. B. Smith, Esqs., on behalf of the Susquehanna County Bar, presented with appropriate remarks, the following memorial, with a request that it should be entered on the records of the court:

By the death of Chief Justice JOSEPH BREWSTER McCOLLUM the bar of our state has lost one of its most conspicuous members and chief ornaments.

For forty-seven years he was an honored and distinguished member of our profession.

He was faithful to his clients as a lawyer, and gave to their interests conscientious care and the benefit of rare professional attainments.

For ten years he presided over the courts of Susquehanna county with conspicuous fidelity and ripe judicial wisdom.

For fifteen years he adorned the bench as a member of this court, finally reaching the august eminence of the chief justiceship; and, in this position, gaining the esteem of the bench, bar and people of our commonwealth, for his modest, painstaking, conservative and upright performance of his judicial duties.

Chief Justice McCollum was a native of Susquehanna county. Within its confines he was reared and educated, and there, in the village of Montrose, he retained the pleasant home he loved so well, until he died there at the ripe age of threescore years and ten.

Our dead brother was in life the embodiment of kindness and courtesy in his association with his legal brethren and fellow members of this court, and was a model of patience and urbanity in the exercise of official power.

While by force of his intellectual endowments, his untiring industry and learning in the law, his persuasive eloquence, his unswerving integrity and faithful discharge of every duty, he attained great eminence in the realm of jurisprudence, he retained, always, the simple and unaffected manner which endeared him to the people of his own county before he rose from the ranks of its local practitioners.

CHIEF JUSTICE MITCHELL:

Mr. Little and gentlemen of the Susquehanna bar. The court has listened with pleasure to this just and appropriate tribute to the late Chief Justice from the bar of his own county. The bar of the whole state will concur in its propriety. We, so long his colleagues, have already on our first assembling after his death expressed our views in accord with what you have said to-day, and we now accede with pleasure to your suggestion, and order these proceedings to be noted in our records.