

larize the various public measures in which Mr. SAVAGE participated, or which were originated by him. It may be mentioned however that the system of taxing corporations, as such, was originated by him while performing the functions of the office of Comptroller. The practice had been to assume to assess the stockholders for their interests, along with the mass of their property, where such interests were known and the stockholders were residents of the State; but the large amount of money thus invested escaped almost entirely from contributing to the public burthens. The new system was adapted in consequence of an elaborate report from the Comptroller, and has ever since been the established policy of the State.

While Mr. SAVAGE continued to execute the office of Comptroller, the constitution of 1822 was adopted and went into operation. The changes effected by that instrument necessitated a complete re-organization of the judiciary and Mr. SAVAGE was called to, and with considerable reluctance on his part, accepted the office of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, to which he was appointed on the 29th of January, 1823; and he continued to hold that position until the latter part of the year 1836. It was in this office that the greatest distinction of his life was earned. Having served a large portion of his time, before his appointment, in other walks of the public service, he did not consider that he possessed any peculiar qualifications as a judge, but those who controlled the question thought otherwise.

His labors were henceforth to be performed in the face of a learned bar, comprising many veteran lawyers, and with the disadvantage of succeeding to the seat of a race of judges of great abilities and high reputation, of whom the State had justly been proud. But with a good legal education, unusual strong common sense and good judgment, and high powers of discrimination, together with patient study and investigation, added to perfect uprightness and integrity, he immediately overcame the slight embarrassments of his position, and by the unanimous verdict of the bar and the community, he was, to say the least, one of the best judges who ever presided in our highest legal tribunals. The character of mind was that of great directness and simplicity. This quality enabled him at once to see the controlling point in a cause and to divest it of all extrinsic and superfluous considerations. His judgments, though generally the result of much study and reflection, appeared so obvious and natural when finally matured, as to command ready acquiescence. The nine volumes of COWEN's report and the first fifteen volumes of the reports of Mr. WENDELL, contain the evidences of his judicial labors, and together form a lasting monument to his memory. Among the opinions which exhibit his strong powers of judicial reasoning upon constitutional law, there is now recollected the one delivered in the Court for the Correction of Errors in the case of *The Steam Boat Company vs. Livingston*; as also one exemplifying his admirable faculty of analysis upon recondite doctrines of the common law in the case of *Patterson vs. Ellis*.

The resignation of Judge SAVAGE was occasioned by the illness of his wife, which in his opinion demanded his personal care, and which resulted soon