

Edward Douglass White

THE appointment of Edward Douglass White as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States has met with universal approbation, although it came as a surprise to many. Now I doubt if our Canadian friends would not be equally pleased were the fact made known to them that this distinguished jurist is of Canadian ancestry. Mr. White is a descendant of a family of Acadians exiled in 1755 named Leblanc. This name is still common among the Acadians of the land of Evangeline and in fact throughout the Maritime Provinces. He was born in Louisiana, Dec. 3, 1845. After passing through *several Catholic colleges* his education was completed in New Orleans where he began the practice of law. In 1891 he was elected United States Senator, and while a member of this body was appointed Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Those who are not familiar with affairs in the United States may not appreciate the dignity and the importance of this position which is second only to the Presidency. Unlike England which has no written constitution, and Germany whose courts are unable to declare unconstitutional any act of the legislature, the United States has a Constitution which is fixed and fundamental, and it is the work of the Supreme Court to interpret and if necessary to enforce it. Therefore the ablest, most learned and unbiased men America can produce are chosen for this tribunal. The world does not know a more powerful, more stately or nobler court. It is through this Court that the preservation and proper interpretation of our Constitution has made Columbia the land of the free where the poor, the rich, the weak and the strong find alike peace and happiness beneath the Stars and Stripes.

There were many seeming obstacles in the way of Mr. White's appointment: not only was he a Roman Catholic but a Southerner, an ex-Confederate, a

Democrat, and indeed a man without political influence. These objections however, great as they seem, were cast aside when President Taft nominated him to a position which he himself would most likely have been appointed to fill had he not been President. It argues strongly that Justice White is eminently qualified for the position he is called upon to fill since despite these objections, Mr. Taft who has a profound knowledge of the law and recognized ability to judge the qualifications necessary for the office, selected him from the many eminent jurists of the United States. It also proves that our President is a man of broad mind for he rose above party feeling, antipathies of war, the old traditions of religious bias and indeed all that would hint a lurking of prejudice. It was a noble act and one worthy the approbation of every citizen beneath the folds of Flag of the Freedom.

T. H. G.



"The old blind schoolmaster, John Milton, hath published a tedious poem on the fall of man; if its length be considered as merit, it hath no other."---

Waller.

Next let Dryden decide, referring to Homer and Virgil; but Dryden's greater third was Milton :---

Two poets in two distant ages born
Did famous Greece and Italy adorn:
Nature exhausted could no further go;
To make a third she joined the other two----

Dryden.

Human experience, like the stern lights of a ship at sea, too often illuminates only the path we have passed over.---Coleridge.