

# JUDGE SHARP IS DEAD

Was Ill A Long Time—Hot Weather Hastened The End.

## BIG LOSS TO CITY AND BENCH

Courts Adjourn Out Of Respect — Public Meeting To Be Held In Fall—Colleagues Pay Tribute.

Judge George Matthews Sharp, of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore, died at his home, 2106 St. Paul street, a few minutes before 5 o'clock yesterday morning. He had been suffering from a complication of diseases since the first of the year, but it was only about two months ago that his illness was considered serious. With the exception of one day, he had been unconscious for a week. When the exceptionally hot weather set in he began to sink.

Judge Sharp seemed especially attached to his uncle, Dr. Robert M. Matthews, and some time before he became unconscious he sent for the physician to stay with him. Dr. Matthews was present when the jurist died.

Besides his uncle he is survived by an aunt, Miss Florence Sharp, and the following cousins: Miss T. E. Matthews, of Arlington, and Misses Teresa Matthews, Beale Matthews and Carrie Wilson, of New York.

### Courts Pay Respect.

As it had been generally known that Judge Sharp was critically ill for some weeks, the news of his death was not unexpected. The first official notice of it was taken at a meeting of the Supreme Bench, at which Judges Harlan, Gorter, Niles and Stump were present. It was ordered that no public session of the courts be held and that a meeting of the bench and bar to take suitable action be held in September, after the summer recess. Notice of this action was contained in the following announcement made by Judge Niles in the Criminal Court in the presence, among others, of Messrs. Bernard Carter, William L. Marbury, John J. Donaldson and Arthur W. March, Jr.:

"The sad news has come to the city of Baltimore that George M. Sharp, one of the Judges of our Supreme Bench, passed from this life early this morning.

"In respect to his memory there will be no public sessions of the courts today. I am authorized by the Supreme Bench to announce that at the opening of the fall term there will be a public meeting, where may be properly expressed by bench and bar their appreciation of his character and of the loss they have sustained.

"The clerk is directed to enter this announcement on the minutes of the respective courts, which are now adjourned."

### Mr. Trundle's Tribute.

Upon motion of Mr. W. Rufus Trundle the Orphans' Court adjourned in respect to the memory of Judge Sharp. "I have known Judge Sharp for the last 20 years," Mr. Trundle said. "He was a gentleman of the highest sense of honor and integrity of purpose. The amplification of the thirty-first equity rule to its present form, which was his especial work, itself bears tribute to his care and solicitude for the interests of beneficiaries of the large and important trusts administered in our equity courts. His death will be regretted by the whole city in which he lived and tried to do his duty as he saw it."

Col. John T. Morris seconded the motion and paid a tribute to Judge Sharp's memory.

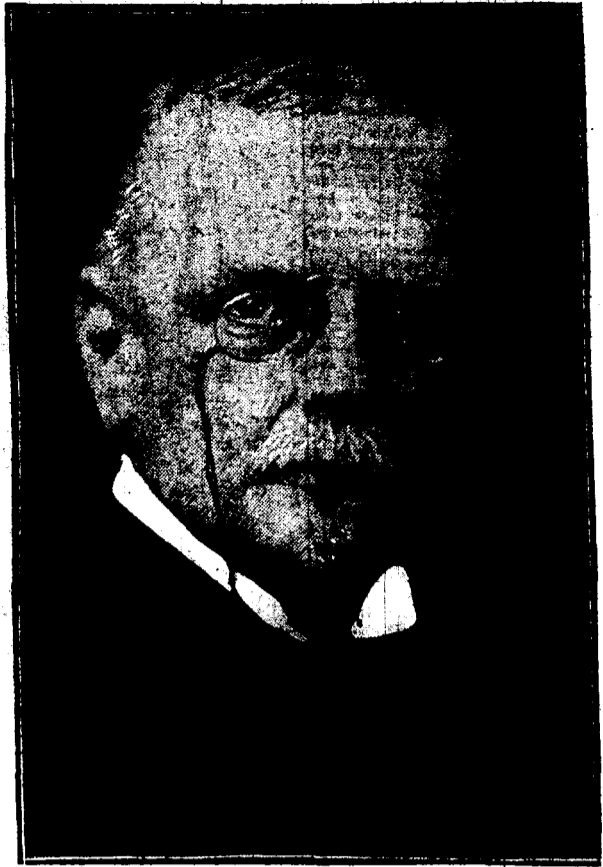
After an appropriate eulogy to the dead jurist Chief Judge Block ordered the adjournment of the court.

Judge Harlan said that as yet he could only express his profound sorrow at Judge Sharp's death and his personal affection for his former colleague.

During the 20 years he had known Judge Sharp, Judge Gorter said, he had become impressed with his high character and his conscientiousness in the discharge of his duties. A large circle of friends who hold him in high esteem, Judge Gorter added, will mourn his loss.

A descendant of the old Maryland fam-

# Well-Known Jurist Is Dead



THE LATE JUDGE GEORGE M. SHARP

ily of Husband, Judge Sharp was born in Baltimore, November 17, 1851. His father was the late Dr. Alpheus P. Sharp, founder of the drug firm of Sharp & Dohme. In boyhood he attended Calvert Hall and Lamb's School, and then Loyola College. For about a year he was a clerk in the ticket office of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

After this brief experience in railroad-ing he resumed his studies in the Yale Law School, which graduated him in 1875 with the degree of master of laws. From 1874 to 1876 he was a special student at Yale, which conferred upon him the honorary degree of master of arts in 1880. He was given the honorary degree of doctor of laws by Washington College in 1907. In 1889 and 1900 he was one of the lecturers of the Yale Law School and of the Georgetown University Law School in 1901 and 1902.

He was admitted to the bar in 1875 and was elected an associate judge of the Supreme Bench in 1897. His term would have expired next year.

As a member of the Maryland, American and International Bar Associations, Judge Sharp showed his predilections by working on the committees on legal education and for raising the standard of education for lawyers desiring to practice in the courts. He was also a member of the American Historical Association, the American Political Science Association and the Society of Colonial Wars. Although not a good "mixer," he was a member of the Maryland University, Baltimore County and Baltimore Athletic Clubs, of this city; the Metropolitan Club, of Washington, and the University Club, of New York. In religion he was a Friend and in politics a Republican.

Judge Sharp never married. Always well dressed, courteous and affable, and tall of stature, he was a commanding figure.

His summers were generally spent in such fashionable resorts as Newport and Narragansett.

The Judge was an omnivorous reader, and although he was especially fond of studying genealogy he delved into many subjects.

### Urged Litigants To Agree.

After being admitted to the bar he became ambitious for political preferment and was twice defeated as his party's candidate, first for Judge and then for Attorney-General, before he was finally elected to the bench. Although a man of high character and unimpeachable integrity, it was generally recognized that his temperament stood in the way of his making a great record on the bench. It was characteristic of him to try to persuade lawyers engaged in a trial before him to agree upon a settlement of the controversy, without calling upon him for a decision. Notwithstanding this characteristic, it was said that the percentage of reversals by the Court of Appeals was less in the cases tried by him than in those of any other judge.

While always a consistent Republican, Judge Sharp was not a partisan and never took an active part in politics. He was first mentioned for Judge in 1888, when he received several hundred more votes than President Harrison, although he was defeated. In 1891, when he was defeated for Attorney-General, he received about 1,300 more votes than any other candidate on the Republican ticket. Before his election as judge he had a remunerative court and office practice.

### Prominent In Bar Associations.

His earnest advocacy of all measures for legal reform and progress was known to all his associates. As chairman of the committee on legal education and admission to the bar of the American Bar Association, he succeeded the late Austin Abbott, of New York. As chairman of the committee on education of the Maryland State Bar Association, he was most active in forwarding the movement for improved and broader systems of legal education and the raising of the standard of qualification for admission to the bar.

In 1904 he was appointed by the President a delegate to the Universal Congress of Lawyers and Jurists at St. Louis. He was also appointed by the President in 1906 one of the visitors to the Naval Academy, but he could not accept the appointment because of a provision in the State Constitution prohibiting judges from holding any other office.

Judge Sharp's health began to fail last January, when he was last on the bench. He spent the summer of 1910 in Europe and returned apparently in fine condition physically. The breakdown came with a severe attack of bronchitis. He went to Atlantic City and seemed to be benefited, but a relapse followed.

### Applicants Already In Field.

The successor to Judge Sharp will be nominated in the primary August 22 and elected in November for a full term of 15 years. Under the Constitution Governor Crothers has the right to appoint a successor to serve until after the November election. In the past the Governor has declined to discuss judicial appointments until after the dead jurists had been buried, and he will do so in this case, despite the fact that the friends of several applicants have already urged him to make the appointment immediately.

In some quarters it was suggested that the Governor should not make any appointment until after the primary. The courts have adjourned for the summer, and they will not resume their regular work until next September. In the meantime the primary will be held, and then it is pointed out that the Governor could name the nominee of the Democratic party for the place.

### Three Judges To Be Elected.

The death of Judge Sharp means the election of three judges in November for full terms. Those whose terms expire are Judges Carroll T. Bond and H. Arthur Stump, both Democrats and both candidates to succeed themselves.

Mr. William A. Wheatley has already filed his papers with the Election Supervisors as a candidate for one of the Democratic nominations, and many of his friends believe that he will be nominated. State's Attorney Albert S. J. Owens will also be a candidate for one of the places. Both Messrs. Wheatley and Owens are relying upon the support of the organization.

Judge Sharp was a Republican, and the Republicans will nominate for this place one of their own.