

Memorial Service
Chas. W. Nevister

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IN MEMORIAM: CHARLES W. HEUISLER.

I: Charles W. Heuisler was born in Baltimore on January 11 1854 and died in the same City on February 28 1929, -having passed his 75th year. He had a thorough training at Calvert Hall and Rock Hill College: studied law at the University of Maryland: and in 1878 was admitted to the Bar, -of which his father, the late Joseph S. Heuisler, was an eminent member. On the 15th of November, 1883 he was married to M. Julia Benzinger, -who survives him. When the Juvenile Court was created in 1902, he became its first Judge; and held the office until appointed to the Supreme Bench on the 11th of April 1908: he was duly elected on November 2nd 1909; and served until the expiration of his term on November 2nd 1924. Thereafter, he practiced law in association with his Nephews, -maintaining at the same time an active interest in the Law School of the University of Baltimore, -of which he was Dean from the time of its establishment. He was a member of the Roman Catholic Church, holding at various times the highest offices in its Societies; and in the consolations of that faith, he died.

II: These facts tell something; but they do not make the picture.

In men really worth while there is always some outstanding quality that catches and holds you. In Judge Heuisler, that quality was humanism. This means that he had the humanist's sense of proportion and dislike of excess: that he was a conservative rather than a reformer: broadminded rather than profound: full of tol-

erance, but a hater of everything mean or pretentious.

No lawyer arguing before him ever doubted his impartiality or gave any thought to his religion or politics; no wise lawyer ever bored him with copious citations or obscure legal distinctions; but the case was won, if you gave him a decision that appealed to his saving common-sense and to his keen instinct for justice.

III: A long stretch of domestic happiness: a worthy career as judge and practitioner: the affection of many friends; and the entire confidence of the community,-all these he had; and they are among the best gifts of the gods. He deserved them; and the Bar does itself honor in paying this tribute to a well-lived life.

Joseph C. France.

William H. H. H. H.

Harry M. Seayinger

Alan P. P. P.

Charles P. P.

Most of my colleagues had the advantage of long official association upon this Bench with Judge Heuisler. Any one of them might therefore have spoken of the value of his judicial service and of his judicial qualities with great comprehension, precision and authority. Such an official association of course was never mine. Hence, no one is more sensitive than I to the fact that it is unfortunate the privilege was not committed to one of the veteran members of the Bench, rather than to its most recent recruit, to respond to the words so appropriately spoken here today.

It was as one among many within the ranks ~~of~~ at the Bar that I had any opportunity to know and appraise his work upon the Bench--an opportunity to some extent shared by all. So there again I can claim no preeminence.

It is only as a friend, a beneficiary of his goodness that I can fairly claim any special status or knowledge entitling me to hope that I can add anything to a reputation so well known. For nearly three decades it was my good fortune to have enjoyed Judge Heuisler's sincere personal friendship, a pleasant and intimate association never so much prized as now, when lost forever. His was an exceptional and unique capacity for making and deserving friends--as is demonstrated by the multiplicity of the donees of his always increasing wealth of kindness; and by the real sorrow existing in this community that he is of us no more.

There was no enigma about Judge Heuisler's nature. The key to his character was easy to find. It was in the unaffected simplicity and purity of his joy of living, and the desire to make the lives of others more joyous for his having lived. This I learned the first time I ever saw him. My memory reverts to that first meeting with him, now so long ago, when care and age had scarcely touched him at all. I had been sent to his office to deliver a message from the then Governor of Maryland to the effect that he was to be appointed the first Judge of the newly created Juvenile Court. It was a revelation of unselfishness when one noted his unfeigned gratification at being selected to perform that public service, though wretchedly underpaid, and simply because it afforded him an opportunity even at a sacrifice to help the world along--the children's world, if only just a little. It was obvious that his powerful, towering body housed a tender, warm and valiant heart. From that time on I was drawn to him always with growing respect and esteem. Likewise the Bar and the public got from him ^{not alone} in his Court ^{but} ~~and~~ everywhere courtesy, consideration and kindness, most gentle and ungrudging. In fact, his spirit was unwearied to the day of his death in doing for others.

It is impossible for anyone here to forget Judge Heuisler even if his death had passed unnoticed by the Bench and Bar. His sunny philosophy of life, which banished bitterness and pessimism, or vain regrets, doubtless would have suggested that as far as possible his passing from these familiar scenes be ignored by his friends. But it seems eminently fit,

eminently stimulating and comforting that we hold these brief ceremonies, not that they add to his honor, or matter to him at all, but for our own good. It gives us an opportunity to turn aside and refresh our own hearts and our own souls for a few moments at least by the contemplation of the finer qualities of a life like Judge Heuisler's. It is seldom we find one such as he was, who at no time felt for even an instant that life was a galling load. He was understanding, so liberal in forgiving the faults and frailties of others, realizing that "to step aside is human".

His courage was remarkable. Retired at the end of his term, when over seventy he bravely set to work to make himself useful in other ways. He began the practice of law all over again, and busied himself as Dean of the Law School; always keeping younger by mingling as comrade and friend with the young.

Like every unselfish life, his life was happy. He even died the death he preferred, shining in use to the very end; and the end came suddenly and quietly without mental apprehension or physical pain. One is reminded by his long, busy life, vigorous almost to the last, of the promise fulfilled in him in every sense here and hereafter, given to those like him; they "shall run and not be weary; shall walk and faint not". And in further connection with his spiritual self it may be appropriate, for otherwise any sort of portrait of Judge Heuisler would certainly be but half complete, at least to mention his stalwart abiding loyalty to his Church and its teachings. A select group of blessed men, of whom it may in whole truth be

said he was--

"One in whom persuasion and belief,
Had ripened into faith, and faith became,
A passionate intuition".