

the river breaks through the Catocin Mountain, one of the ridges of the Alleghany, or part of the Blue Ridge, more properly. There is not room enough for both routes between the river and the foot of the mountain, and neither can take any other course without enormous expense. The canal has the oldest charter, but the railroad located first on this particular spot. The chances of decision are thought to be about even; I incline to think they preponderate a little in our favor.³⁴

In the United States Circuit Court twelve years later, Taney, then Chief Justice, replying to addresses of the bar on Judge Buchanan's death, took occasion to say:

during the whole of this long period [of the acquaintance of the two] we were intimate and cordial friends, cherishing for each other a warm attachment and respect, and it is a great consolation to me now to recollect that during the whole of that time, no word of unkindness ever passed between us: and that amid the exciting conflicts which unavoidably arise in courts of justice, and which sometimes try the tempers of the coolest and most forbearing, and amid the still stronger excitements which have arisen out of public concerns, there never was one moment of unkind feeling between us—nor a moment in which either of us would not have rendered to the other the best service it was in his power to afford.³⁵

And the Chief Justice spoke of the kindness of heart and the great legal attainments of Judge Buchanan. Reverdy Johnson, at the same meeting, placed emphasis on Judge Buchanan's "judicial courtesy"; and that is a quality he appears to have had in a high degree. He was one of the extensive farmers, his land lying in Washington County.

When Judge Buchanan died, in 1844, Judge Stevenson Archer, of Harford County, after a

34. Writings and Speeches of Daniel Webster, Boston, Little, Brown & Co., 1903, XVII, 513.

35. 7 Law Reporter (old series), 400.