

Judge James McSherry, Chief Judge from 1896 to 1907; and one of the cherished subjects of professional talk during many years has been a comparison of Judges Alvey, Miller and McSherry. Judge Robinson of a type differing somewhat from that of all these, is being brought into the discussion more recently. They were all judges of high ability, and opinions of theirs are taken as having somewhat more than ordinary authority. Judges Alvey, Miller and McSherry wrote opinions of a style now apparently passing, opinions, that is, in which the reasoning is spread out at length with copious elucidation and illustration, while Judge Robinson anticipated the more modern style, giving little more than the conclusions with brief statements of the arguments and authorities leading to them. The first three judges mentioned, therefore, laid their work more open to appreciation and comparison.

There were interesting differences in their methods. Both Judge Alvey and Judge Miller expended much labor on their opinions, and they excelled by the amount and quality of their reflection, perhaps, as much as by original intellectual capacity. Judge Alvey was an intense workman, and sometimes shut himself off from communication and spent hours reading and walking the floor until he had threshed out his ideas clearly. He took pride in the lucidity of his opinions, and regularly wrote three times before delivering the product. Some of his contemporaries thought that in a few instances he suffered the consequences likely to attend upon protracted study, that he sometimes followed his