

logic out of contact with realities. His study had the effect of eliminating possible personal tendencies and predilections, of course, and Judge Alvey's opinions always yielded place to the law, and let the decisions fall as they might. Judge McSherry, who worked six years on the court with Judge Alvey, and had that close knowledge of the cases as argued which always gives an advantage in estimating the work of a judge, thought Judge Alvey was one of the three best chief judges of ten which Judge McSherry described.² Some of Judge Alvey's opinions came to the notice of President Cleveland when the latter was a practicing lawyer, and when President, he had Dr. Frank T. Shaw, a Congressman from Maryland from 1885 to 1889, bring Judge Alvey to the White House; and after the interview the President told Dr. Shaw that he intended to appoint Judge Alvey to the Supreme Court of the United States. When the next vacancy on the court occurred, however, the President found that the senior Senator from Maryland would prevent confirmation in the Senate, and the appointment was therefore withheld. Some orders Judge Alvey had passed in litigation respecting the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Company, in which the Senator was deeply interested, had angered the Senator. This is the incident as told by Dr. Shaw. The President later, in 1893, appointed Judge Alvey Chief Justice of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, and in 1895 appointed him a member of the commission to settle the boundary line between Venezuela and British Guiana.

2. Report Md. State Bar Asso., 1904, 133.