

1789, and Chief Judge in 1799; and, therefore, he had had seventeen years judicial experience when he came to the Court of Appeals in 1806. He had been a successful lawyer; and he was a judge of superior qualities. The few opinions of his which we know to have been deliberated and delivered in writing show this. That delivered in *Whittington v. Polk*, 1 Harris & Johnson, 241, and an earlier one in *Runkel v. Winemiller*, 4 Harris & McHenry, 448, will serve as examples, although it is perhaps not certain that the latter was committed to writing. But judicial ability of a still higher order is displayed in Judge Chase's announcements and explanations of rulings by the judges of the General Court during the course of trials, many of which are reported in 1 and 2 Harris & Johnson's reports. They are reported from notes of Harris' which seem to have been taken down in the court room. Some at least of the rulings were evidently delivered orally, sometimes in dialogue with counsel, yet they not only show a full understanding of the law, but are characterized by a logical order, precision and lucidity beyond the ordinary. And they show a fine judicial poise. It is not easy to choose among the many rulings to illustrate these qualities, but those reported in *Harper v. Hampton*, 1 Harris & Johnson, 622, will probably be sufficient for the purpose. Judge Chase became one of the most impressive figures of his time. On his death in 1828, the Maryland Gazette appeared (May 5) in heavy black column lines, and offered what it considered "the simple, unvarnished truth" as his best eulogy, and to the eulogy added that: