

*MR. JUSTICE BLATCHFORD.*

Samuel Blatchford, associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, died July 7, 1893. The deceased was appointed an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, March 22, 1882, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Justice Hunt. His grandfather, Samuel Blatchford, was an English dissenting minister, who came from Devonshire to the United States in 1795. His father, Richard Milford Blatchford, a native of Stratfield, Conn., was a school teacher, and still later counsel for the bank of the United States.

Samuel Blatchford was born in New-York city, March 9, 1820, was educated at a boarding school at Pittsfield, Mass., and at the school of William Forrest, a well known teacher in New York, and at the grammar school of Columbia College. He entered Columbia College at the age of thirteen and was graduated in 1837, at the age of seventeen. He then became private secretary to William H. Seward, who had been elected governor of New York, and held the position until his resignation in 1841, when he was appointed military secretary on the staff of the governor. In the following year he was admitted to the bar, and practiced law in New York with his father and his uncle, E. H. Blatchford, until November, 1845, when he removed to Auburn, and became the law partner of Governor Seward and Christopher Morgan.

In 1854, removing to the city of New York, he formed a co-partnership in connection with Clarence A. Seward and Burr W. Griswold, under the firm name of Blatchford, Seward & Griswold. May 3, 1867, he was appointed district judge of the United States for the Southern District of New York, in the place of Samuel R. Betts, who had resigned. March 4th, following, he was appointed circuit judge of the Second Judicial Circuit in the place of Alexander S. Johnson, deceased. In 1852 he commenced the publication of his series of reports of the Circuit Courts of the United States within the Second Circuit, and published 24 volumes.

As an admiralty judge, justice Blatchford ranked among the foremost in the land. As a patent lawyer he was clear-headed and sensible, determining, among other notable cases, the validity of letters patent for insulating telegraph wires by gutta-percha, and the liability of a common carrier for infringing a patent, when it carried the infringing article, which was to be sold at its