

was greatly superior to Holt in culture and general fitness for high judicial position. He succeeded by persistent efforts, which were characteristic of everything he undertook, in making himself an admirable English scholar, a quality which his judgments reflect; and he spared no pains to inform himself on all subjects that would furnish any direct aid in the discharge of his duties as a Judge. The result of such thoroughness, aided by such ability, was the creation of a type to serve as a model for all Judges who have followed him. His self-control, his desire to do justice, his courtesy and consideration, left nothing to be desired in his demeanor on the bench. More learned and more gifted perhaps than any who appeared before him, he was yet ever patient and attentive, anxious to gather any light that counsel might give, and, without untimely suggestions and interruptions, he heard the case through to the end, when a complete grasp of the facts considered in the light of the law, which none knew better than he how to apply, enabled him to give a sound judgment.

Scotland has given some eminent Judges to England. Of these, when every point is considered, Lord Mansfield is easily the greatest. It would require more than a paragraph or two to do justice to what he was. From the beginning he applied his remarkable mental powers to the acquisition of a broad and thorough learning, seeking to liberalize and to strengthen his mind by gaining a real acquaintance with history, literature, philosophy, and the classics, and by association with men of literary attainments and culture. In his study of law itself he did not tread merely in the narrowest circle of professional learning, but sought out and made his own the Roman civil law, international law, and the systems of modern European countries other than England. These habits of study he continued throughout a long life, covering nearly the whole of the eighteenth century; and so when at fifty-one, after many years of experience at the head of the English bar and in parliamentary life, he was called to preside as Chief Justice of the King's Bench, he was fitted as few have been at any time to fill so important a post. But his attainments, his rare mental powers,