

known that Mr. Chase was a candidate for the democratic nomination for the presidency, though he had been one of the founders of the Republican party. Chief Justice Chase was succeeded in 1873 by President Grant's appointment of another Ohio man, Morrison R. Waite, who was 57 years of age when appointed, and served until 1888, when he was succeeded by the present chief justice, Melville W. Fuller, appointed by President Cleveland. Mr. Fuller is a native of Maine. He was, when appointed, 55 years of age, and was 64 on February 11, 1897. He is the seventh of the chief justices of the Supreme Court, and has served thus far a briefer term than any of his predecessors since Chief Justice Ellsworth.

*COKE AND BACON—THE CONSERVATIVE LAWYER
AND THE LAW REFORMER.¹*

Sir Edward Coke used to say:—"If I am asked a question of common law, I should be ashamed if I could not immediately answer it; but if I am asked a question of statute law, I should be ashamed to answer it without referring to the statute books."

If any one ever knew all about the common law, Coke was undoubtedly the man. With a constitution that was proof against illness and fatigue, with a memory that never relaxed its grasp, he gave to the study of the common law all his available time and energy, from his youth until he died in extreme old age. His learning, vast but not varied, began and ended with the common law, for which he entertained feelings of reverence amounting to fanaticism. He said that there were rules of the law for which no reason could be given; a circumstance that in his eyes clothed them with a mysterious sanction, and conferred on them an additional value. A mere dry legist, he cared more for the six carpenters than he did for the seven sages of Greece. Possessing not the slightest tincture of general literature, scorning all foreign systems of law, as well as the philosophy of law in general, which he considered to be matters wholly irrelevant and speculative, he was perfectly at home with executory devises, contingent remainders, shifting and springing uses, and all the other technical creations of the law of tenures, which made up a great part of the common law. One could easily

¹ From an address delivered by Hon. U. M. Rose, of Arkansas, before the Virginia Bar Association, at its last meeting at Old Point Comfort.