

alone, he applies himself closely until his breakfast hour, ten o'clock; and returning, does not generally leave his desk until it is time to go to the capitol to be present at the opening of the Supreme Court at noon. Members of the Supreme Court and their families constitute the most select circle of official society in Washington, and the social exactions upon the chief justice are very great. Scarcely an evening passes during the fashionable season that his presence is not demanded at a reception, or a dinner or a party, and during the winter he gives a series of entertainments himself. These are marked by a cordial hospitality and refined absence of display that are more impressive than any extravagance. It is a high social honor to be a guest of the chief justice.

When Mr. Lincoln selected Mr. Miller for a place upon the Supreme bench, which became vacant in 1862, he was already one of the prominent lawyers of the west, although only about a dozen years had passed since his admission to the bar; and so well and favorably known was he in Washington that the senate unanimously confirmed his nomination on the day on which it was received, and without reference to a committee, a compliment rarely paid to a man not previously a member of the senate. While perhaps not so profoundly learned in some departments of the law as several of his colleagues, Justice Miller is distinguished among American jurists for the quickness and accuracy with which he seizes upon the essential points of an involved controversy and clears away what is immaterial or confusing. His judgment is almost unerring. But it is for the long series of remarkably able opinions upon constitutional questions, written and delivered during the past twenty-four years, that Justice Miller is best known. In their breadth, scope of argument, and clearness of statement they rank with those of Chief Justice Marshall. To him was assigned the duty of preparing the first decision of the court involving the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the Constitution; and adopted by the court, his opinion stands as one of the few that may be called anchors of the government. Justice Miller is not as method-

ical in his habits of thought and work as some of his associates. He generally makes his pen wait upon his inclination, but when he takes a seat at his desk he works with wonderful rapidity, completing his task in the least possible time. But this does not prove an absence of the most careful research and mature reflection, for he frequently goes carefully over the whole ground of a case, gets his authorities, and reaches the conclusions before he puts pen to paper. Then he writes his opinion very rapidly, and in a bad hand. A stranger in Washington, to whom one of the justices of the Supreme Court was pointed out on Pennsylvania avenue, said he thought he must be a judge when he saw him. "They are generally pretty large," he said, "when they get on the Supreme bench, and they get bigger after they sit, like a hen on her eggs. Whether it is the sitting that makes them large, or the brooding, or whether they were of the Plymouth Rock breed to begin with, I cannot say." Justice Miller contributes his share to the *avoirdupois* of the court. Though of only middle height, his form is well filled, and he surpasses in physical vigor many a younger man. He has an immense head, bald on the top; a clean-shaven ruddy face from which he cannot drive, if he would, the evidence of his refined, sympathetic, sensitive nature. His Washington house is on Highland Place, overlooking the Thomas statue, and one of his nearest neighbours is Secretary Bayard. The mansion is an imposing one of brick and brown stone, with tower and Mansard roof, richly and tastefully but not extravagantly furnished. The study is in the basement, a large room crowded with book-cases, big sofas, lounges and easy chairs. Justice Miller is not a hermit in his workroom; he seems more at home entertaining his friends there than in the drawing-room above. He and Mrs. Miller enjoy great social popularity, and entertain generously and with good taste.

The lives of few public men have been so varied and stirring as that of Justice Field. Sent to Greece at the age of thirteen that he might perfect himself in the study of language, he returned after nearly three years in Athens and Smyrna, to enter Williams College, from