

In his earlier days he was fond of shooting and riding, and during his whole professional career was alert and quick in his movements. He usually walked to and from his office, at which he arrived comparatively early and in which he generally remained until the close of the business day. In the office of J. W. & J. N. Ritchie, in which I served my apprenticeship, there was no coming back at night; but, as the senior partner did not as a rule leave the building during the day, luncheon being with him almost a matter of form, and as the work went on continuously from comparatively early in the morning till fairly late in the afternoon, there was perhaps as much accomplished as under what are supposed to be the more strenuous modern methods. John Ritchie sat by himself in the inner of the two offices and Norman, who was 26 years younger than he, with the clerks in the outer. Although the senior member of the firm was always courteous and affable, there was a certain element of dignity and aloofness about him which hindered us from being as free and familiar as we were with the junior. John W. Ritchie's attitude towards his clients was almost judicial: unless a case was legally and morally good, he would not undertake it; and he could be very clear and emphatic in the expression of his opinions of those whose cases did not measure up to a fairly high moral standard. The firm were noted for the moderation of their charges for professional work, a characteristic which, if it did not receive the unqualified approval of their brethren of the profession, was very favorably looked upon by their numerous clients.

I was not often a witness of Mr. Ritchie's conduct of a case in Court. He had no gifts of eloquence and was troubled with a slight hesitation of speech, but he was effective even in addressing a jury, because of his evident and well known regard for truth and because his speeches were earnest and to the purpose. In speaking to the Bench he was of course, entirely in his element.

There was about him in Court as elsewhere a complete absence of vanity and conceit. As to his qualities as a judge,