

at high altitudes in a non-stop flight. This pattern of flight has allowed the species to maintain its numbers, with few being killed during the fall flights except those taken by the Indians at Hudson bay and by hunters and trappers on the wintering grounds in Louisiana. Blue geese have few natural enemies and if their winter range is well protected, should continue to delight the eye of the naturalists and sportsmen of this country.

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### CUMMINS AS AN IOWA ORATOR

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It remains for the biography of Albert B. Cummins to be prepared and published. His colorful career was closed in July 1926 when he was at the zenith of his power and usefulness to the state and the nation. Sketches and brochures have all agreed in giving him high place as a forceful and convincing speaker, an able advocate at the bar, an effective campaigner. He was also one of the great orators of Iowa, and at times there came flashing from his tongue a series of brilliant sentences that fairly captivated the hearers.

As evidence of his real oratorical ability it may be considered proper to reprint an address delivered by Senator and Governor Cummins made long before he had ever been induced by his friends to enter the political arena. The occasion was a bar banquet in honor of Judge John Mitchell when he retired from twelve years on the district bench, in Des Moines, the date being Dec. 30, 1880. Mr. Cummins, then a practicing young lawyer, less than three years residing in Des Moines, spoke for the bar of Polk county in presenting a token of their esteem of the retiring judge. The gift was a set of books, the Lives of the Lord Chancellors, and also other additions to the judge's fine library. The address of Lawyer Cummins is here reprinted from the *Iowa State Register* for its intrinsic worth as a model of oratory:

Mr. Chairman: As members of the Polk County Bar we are already saying one to another, "The King is dead. Long live the

King;" but before we bear the now expiring sovereign to the grave of private life, before we carry the robes of authority to his successor, it seemed right and proper that we should give what joy we could to his last prerogative days, by expressing with full hearts the profound content we have experienced under his beneficent reign, by publicly testifying our delight at the exact justice of his administration and by assuring him that an unvarying kindness and an unfailing courtesy have excited sentiments of regard and affection that will run an even life with our memories. Of necessity such expression is retrospective and of all the happy hours in life, those hours which we devote to the past are happiest.

The future, big as it may be with expectation and hope, always comes not only laden with the possibility of defeat, but chilled with the frosty touch of fear; its demands are harsh and peremptory, its voice is stern and menacing, its problems are yet unsolved, its hard work remains yet to be done; it forbids the idle reveries of a dreamer and repels the gentle courtship of a lazy hour; its current rushes hard upon us, strikes the sharp line of the present and the past, flows away as peacefully as though its surface had never been troubled with a single care. The future is our master; the past, our servant, and to-night the servant shall do its duty, though the master has even now issued his commands for the morrow.

The members of the bar of Polk county have commissioned me, Judge Mitchell, to gather up these sentiments common to us all, to bind them together with the thread of this leavetaking, and beg you to receive them as a perpetual reminder that you go from the bench with not only the honors that are justly due from twelve years of able, honest and splendid work, with not only all the reputation that can be gathered from twelve years of judicial labor, but that you go also with the esteem and love of every member of your bar. To deserve and receive honor and reputation, as you have deserved and received them both, is and always must be gratifying in a high degree; but it seems to me that when, in after years, in some hour of revery, you send your messenger back to bring up the choicest memory of your judicial life, there will be borne to you the recollection that you also deserved and received in no stated measure, the friendship of your bar.

I hope that I shall not unduly praise the message I bear to you, and looking rather to the conduct on your part, which has aroused, strengthened and cemented this fraternal feeling, I must be allowed to say that in a crown of virtues it holds the foremost place. Great ability always commands our admiration. Great integrity likewise claims our respect, but to ability and integrity must be added goodness and kindness of heart before we give our friend-

ship. All these graces, both of mind and heart, we have found in you, and as was said years ago

“Went the last drop in the well  
As I gasped upon the brink,  
Ere my fainting spirit fell  
’Tis to thee that I would drink.”

Whatever pleasure this recollection may afford you in future hours, it can never be to you a source of more gratification than it is and has been to us. It has given joy to every professional labor. It has added pride to every professional success and drawn the sting from every professional defeat. It has in every hour stimulated our professional growth toward dignity, courtesy, kindness and gentleness, and the days of “Auld Lang Syne” shall be to us forever a well-spring of contentment.

In many respects, I am, perhaps, the most unfit person present to lay this tribute of regard before you, for, of your twelve years upon the bench I have enjoyed your acquaintance less than three, but in other respects I yield the palm to no man, for the encouragement, the kindness, and the courtesy that I, a stranger in a strange land, received at your hands gave me courage when courage was necessary, and hope when hope was needed, and in honor of my brothers at the bar I desire now to say and let it add something to the value of their esteem for you, that until consciousness itself shall perish, I shall never cease to hold in grateful remembrance the generous, unselfish and charitable treatment they have always and everywhere extended to me. I here record my thanks and gratitude and my judgment that at least until I became a member of it, this bar, in all the qualities that go to make men and lawyers, had no peer among its fellows.

I am further commissioned, Judge Mitchell, not indeed as a measure of friendship and esteem, but rather as an earnest of it, to ask you to accept this gift, so that in future years as we drop one by one from the ranks, and the memory of ancient days grows dim, your eyes may rest upon an evidence of the kindly feeling we now and always shall, cherish for you. Let it be to you a sign that we appreciate the ability with which you have administered justice among us. Let it be to you a sign that we recognize in your every judgment an earnest endeavor to do right, without fear or favor, and above all let it constantly remind you, that your presence on the bench has been to us a benediction and a blessing and that in every fortune that may await you, you have our united hope and good will.

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