

## A NEW SUPREME COURT.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 3, 1893.—Justice William B. Hornblower, the latest addition to the Supreme court, is a little man with a big head. His body is no larger than that of Gen. Joe Wheeler or ex-Senator Mahone, but his head is bigger than that of Tom Reed's of Maine. He does not weigh over 125 pounds, and his Supreme court gown requires only half the cloth that it takes to fit out the giant forms of Justices Gray, Harlan and Stephen J. Field. The Supreme court is rapidly changing. Six years ago there was hardly a little man on the bench with the exceptions of Justices Bradley and Blatchford. Now the heads of the justices, as they rest against their high chairs behind the long desk, run up and down like the teeth of an old saw, and the ponderous dignity of the court appears to be passing away. Chief Justice Fuller himself is a little man. He is no taller than Hornblower, and his legs are so short that he has to prop his feet up with a stool in order to rest easily in his chair of state. He forms a striking contrast to the two men who preceded him. Salmon P. Chase was six feet tall, and you could not have put his great dome of a head into a peck measure. Morrison R. Waite weighed more than 200 pounds, and his every motion was heavy and dignified. Take Chief Justice Fuller out of his gown and he looks like a gray-haired boy. He is not as big as was Senator Spooner, and like Spooner he probably frequently grows indignant at the idea that a man, to be great ought to be at least seventeen feet high. As to the other justices, Harlan is over six feet, and he must weigh in the neighborhood of 300 pounds. He is a great, broad-shouldered, round-limbed giant, with the red corpuscles which denote plenty of iron shining out of every part of his frame. His eyes are bright and full of life. His step is vigorous, and he keeps his joints well oiled by long walks. He sometimes walks from the Capitol to his home, a distance three miles, and I frequently see him measuring off the sidewalk at a pace of four miles an hour.

The most of the judges walk out to the Capitol, and one of the funniest sights is to see Brewer and Harlan coming on a dog trot down Pennsylvania avenue with the chief justice in the middle. They have taken off their gowns and though by looking at their faces you can tell that they are eminent men, the view from the rear presents two ordinary mortals in slouch hats with a little man under a silk plug in the middle.

## A LOOK AT JUDGE GRAY.

One of the biggest men on the bench is Justice Gray of Massachusetts. He is fully as tall as Justice Harlan, and he weighs more. He runs rather to adipose tissue. His face reminds me of the best pictures which you see in the magazines of the babies which are advertised as being brought up on artificial food, and his flesh looks clean enough and sweet enough to eat. He is a sober man, however, and his six feet two is one mass of judicial dignity. He prides himself on his position, and he thinks the three greatest things on earth is the Supreme court, the state of Massachusetts and Harvard College. His uncle

Harvard, and he gave \$25,000 to the college library.

## JUDGE HORNBLOWER'S FAMOUS ANCESTORS.

Justice Gray is rich and blue blooded, and this is the case with most of the justices. Gray's grandfather made a fortune in shipbuilding, and he had at one time sixty square-rigged ships on the ocean. He was born in Massachusetts in 1750, and he was, when he died, the richest man in the state. It is from him that a part of Justice Gray's wealth comes. The new justice, Mr. Hornblower, traces his ancestry back to England. Josiah Hornblower, the first of the family who came to this country, sailed to the United States in order to build a steam engine here. He brought all the parts with him from England, and he put up the first steam engine ever put up in the United States. He was not more than twenty-five years old at the time, and the engine was used in the Schuyler copper mines in Hudson county, N. J. After it was finished he proposed to go back to England, but the owners of the mine persuaded him to stay, and he married Elizabeth Kingsland, who was the descendant of one of the judges of the supreme court in New Jersey in colonial days. It was from this woman, his great grandmother, that the new justice probably inherits his judicial ability, for her son, his grandfather, Judge Joseph Hornblower, was one of the most famous lawyers New Jersey has known. He was chief justice of the state, and he wrote a number of lawbooks. He was the youngest of twelve children, and was so sickly that he could not be sent to school. At the age of sixteen he had a stroke of paralysis, and he lost the memory of everything he had learned up to that time. He began all over again as soon as he was cured, and against the advice of every one studied law. He worked right along up to the time of his death, however, and became very famous, living to the advanced age of eighty-eight. He had eight children, and one of these was Wm. H. Hornblower, the father of the new justice. He began life by studying law, but was converted and dropped the law for theology. He became a Presbyterian preacher, and died of paralysis just ten years ago. Justice Hornblower, after graduating at Princeton, began his practice in New York. Every one knows how he made himself famous there, and how his practice has or years amounted to three or four times the sum he will get as a justice of the supreme court.

## HIS MAGNIFICENT COUNTRY HOME.

The new justice is said to be rich. He has made a fortune at the law, and he inherited, I am told, a pretty penny from his father. He will probably build a house in Washington. Justice Hornblower's summer home will be at Southampton, Long Island. He has just finished building a large cottage there. His house is surrounded by six acres of ground, and the lot has a frontage of 800 feet. The cottage is a two-story and attic building, with wide verandas running around the front and sides. It is made of clap boards and shingles, and has cost all told about \$20,000. It contains over a score of rooms, and it has a most elaborate system of subsoil drainage. All the sewerage from the house runs off into a great tank 400 feet away from it. It is here reduced to a pulp,

and by means of a siphon and a large number of subterranean drains carried off into the soil. The house itself is lighted by electricity, and one of its prominent features is a big hall, with a number of large rooms opening into it.

## BLUE BLOODED JUSTICES.

Speaking of blue-blooded justices, Justice Stephen J. Field can trace his ancestry back to the flood. One of his grandfathers was in the revolutionary army as a captain and his father went to school with the father of William M. Evarts. His three brothers all became famous and the family has for the past fifty years been one of the most noted in the country. Justice Harlan belongs to one of the oldest families in Kentucky and his father was attorney general of that state at the time of his death. Howell Jackson is also blue-blooded, and Justice Brown comes from one of the Brown families of New England, which is noted for its famous men. He was born at Lee, Mass., and I am not sure, but I think one of his connections was John Brown, the revolutionist of 1774-5. This man was sent to Canada by our forefathers to excite the people to revolt. He went around pretending to buy horses, but in reality talking up the revolution which afterwards resulted in the war of independence. He afterwards went with Ethan Allen on his expedition to Canada and he was for a time under Benedict Arnold. He did not like Arnold and left him prophesying that he would prove a traitor, as he did. Justice Shiras comes of good Pennsylvania stock and his mother was the daughter of the Rev. G. L. Peabody, one of the most famous preachers of his day.

## QUEER COINCIDENCES ABOUT SUPREME COURT JUSTICES.

Some queer things have happened to the men on the supreme bench. It is strange that Justices Shiras, Brewer and Brown should have gone to school at Yale at the same time and in the same class. They graduated together in 1853 and Shiras won the Hadley prize of that year. It is strange that Justice Stephen J. Field and Justice Brewer should both spend the earliest part of their lives in Asia Minor and should come together in the highest court of the land. Stephen J. Field went to Asia Minor when he was fifteen years old to visit his sister, who had married a missionary, and he stayed there until he practically acquired the oriental languages. He is now one of the best linguists on the bench and he can speak a half a dozen different tongues and read more. Justice Brewer was born in Smyrna, the same place to which Stephen J. Field went, and not more than a year or so after he left. His father was a famous missionary, who was the first one of the American preachers to volunteer to go to Smyrna. He established the first newspaper that was ever published in that city and he introduced schools and the printing press. He was a graduate of Yale and a writer as well as a preacher, editor and teacher. It was he who married the sister of Stephen J. Field, and it is a curious thing that uncle and nephew thus sit side by side on the bench of this the highest court in the land. It is queer that Shiras, Field, Brewer and Hornblower should all be the sons of preachers and strange that Hornblower should have been educated in the law by his uncle, Justice Bradley, and so soon succeed him after Bradley's death.