

Judge Benson

Pa has delegated me  
to present to you this cane as a token  
of his regard in memory of the old  
army life: - From Chancellorsville  
to Gettysburg; from Chancellorsville,  
Atlanta; & the Sea; This cane as you  
will see is not embellished with Gold or  
silver, & cost the giver nothing but  
the work of his own hands with  
the ax, & Jackknife; In the use of  
which the Hard-tack Regiment  
were so much reted; Let me call  
your attention to the wood of which  
it is composed; the Body of the  
Cane is made from the wood of one  
of the Big-trees of California -  
Sequoia Gigantea, Hundreds of  
Years ago a great time spent

through these giant monarchs  
of the forest burning some of them  
so that they fell to the ground, &  
few, or none of them escaped without  
the blackning scars of fire which  
still remain, when you look on  
this token, the River would have  
you remember the years of fire  
& storm of battle through which  
you & the name passed, and which  
has left marks & memories on  
your hearts; like those of these  
Grand Old trees, which years  
cannot efface! memories which  
as the years roll by, only bind  
more strongly the bond of sympathy  
& regard for those with whom you  
stood shoulder to shoulder amid  
the storm of battle.

But there are other points to  
which I would call your attention  
in the word of this case, in the

Honorable position which you hold as Judge, when you look on this Case, you can remember that the tree from which it came was vigorous & green thousands of years gone by, when the first Judges of which History gives us any account, were dispensing justice from their Courts; and then you will discern that the head of this Case is of different wood from the Body, it is every firm & solid, & susceptible of a very high polish, this will remind you that a Judge should be very firm & fixed in dispensing Justice, but that he may also polish his Judgements with mercy & kindness, I now present you with this little memento hoping that the hour has not been an unpleasant digression from the duties of the Bench, and that the memories of the Receiver & the Queen may ever

be green like the foliage  
of of those grand old trees  
from which this wood was  
taken.