tional state legislation "arbitrarily interfering with private interests and imposing unlawful restrictions upon lawful occupations." Judge Wallace's views were somewhat on the conservative side. During a speech he made earlier that year at a dinner in honor of Supreme Court Justice Edward Thomas, he made this statement: "Who can find among the members of Congress any who would dare to stand up and oppose a labor measure supported by labor unions?" The remark may have been injudicious for a Circuit Judge, but The New York Times reported that it was applauded vigorously by the Judges and lawyers on hand for the occasion. Among the Judges present was Alfred C. Coxe, Wallace's successor as Northern District Judge.

It was no small advantage to be born Alfred Conkling Coxe at Auburn in 1847. This boy was a nephew of Senator Roscoe Conkling and of Arthur C. Coxe, Episcopal Bishop of Western New York, and the grandson of the United States Judge for the Northern District. His mother, Judge Conkling's daughter, and his clergyman father saw to it that he received a classical education, and he was awarded a degree from Hamilton College before his admission to the bar following a clerkship in the law office of Uncle Roscoe. With this background in mind, I have concluded that the Utica law firm of Conkling, Lord & Coxe must have enjoyed some moderate success. (I wonder if Lord was a real person or merely a reference to certain connections of the other partners). I suppose that it came as no great surprise to the upstate bench and bar that, upon the appointment of Judge Wallace to the Circuit Bench, President Arthur chose Alfred Conkling Coxe to succeed Wallace in 1882. It was Chester Arthur, after all, who was so anxious to appoint Uncle Roscoe to the Supreme Court.

Although the appointment of Judge Coxe to the bench may have been predictable, the quality of the service he would render was not at all foreseeable. He became a great Judge, and he wrote extensively on many legal subjects. I have found all his writings to be scholarly, interesting, well organized and sprinkled with humor. His District Court service, from 1882 to 1902, spanned a period of dynamic growth in American industry. This growth was fostered in part by the development and application of new inventions. It was an exciting time for American business, but it resulted in a substantial increase in patent litigation in the Northern District.