

Judge Gary's First Meeting with J. Pierpont Morgan

Along in 1896 Judge Gary was in New York attending to some legal business when one of Mr. Morgan's counsel came to him, saying that Mr. Morgan wanted him to come over to his office and give him an opinion on a railroad matter involving Illinois law and practice. When the case had been stated, Judge Gary said,

"Mr. Morgan, I don't think you can do that legally."

"Well," said Mr. Morgan - and Mr. Morgan's 'Well,' was always a challenging, often a terrifying expletive - "I don't know as I want a lawyer to tell me what I cannot do. I hire him to tell me how to do what I want to do."

"Tell me your purpose, Mr. Morgan," the Judge replied, "and I will see what can be done."

Mr. Morgan, who always knew exactly what he was after, though he sometimes found difficulty in telling others, explained his purpose. "There is a legal way to reach that result," Judge Gary said, and he explained what it was. The banker was immensely pleased. It undoubtedly made an impression on him, which he never forgot, for he was a man of remarkable memory, particularly in matters which concerned men.

