

to these considerations there are others which will render this latest mark of Her Majesty's favour exceedingly popular. It is an honour conferred upon the colony as well as upon the individual. This is true indeed when any public man is singled out for distinction. In the present instance, however, the honour is of a special character, and will be valued accordingly. It has frequently happened that in the interval between the departure of one Governor and the arrival of his successor, as well as during the temporary absence of the Governor for the time being, that the government has been administered by the Chief or one of the Judges of the Supreme Court, but the appointments have necessarily been only temporary. It is much more gratifying to our national pride to know that one of our most distinguished citizens has had the permanent honour of being Lieutenant-Governor conferred upon him, and that he will retain this rank whether the Governor is present or absent from the colony.

It is to be regretted that the news did not reach Adelaide before His Honor's departure for Europe, so that he might have personally received the congratulations of his fellow-colonists. Although the Chief Justice cannot claim to be Australian born, he has so long been identified with the colony that South Australia specially claims him as one of her own sons. For many years he has been in the widest meaning of the phrase one of our most representative men. In his varied official positions, and in the exercise of his boundless hospitality, he has been brought into contact with eminent men from the other colonies and from Europe, many of whom will learn with pleasure of the distinguished honour which has now been conferred upon him. Although, judged by the English standard, the Chief Justice is still a young man, he has spent many years in the public service; and we echo the feelings of our readers when we express the hope that he may live for many years to render further service to

his adopted country, and to enjoy the distinguished honours which, in his case, may be looked upon as the legitimate reward of conspicuous merit.

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HIS HONOR Chief Justice WAY has received from the Crown the appointment of Lieutenant-Governor of South Australia. In this colony the office is a new one, though it has long existed in New South Wales and Victoria. Up to the year 1858 the practice in South Australia was to entrust the provisional administration of the government to the senior member of the Executive Council. From that year till 1870 the duties of Acting Governor were discharged by the officer commanding her Majesty's forces; and since 1870 the Chief Justice has always administered the government in the event of the death or removal of a Governor. The "dormant commission" issued by the Colonial Office in 1877 appoints the Chief Justice to administer the government in case of the death, incapacity, removal, or departure of the Governor, as well as of such person (if any) who may have been appointed Lieutenant Governor; the office devolving on the Senior Judge should the Chief

Justice for any reason be not available. The only practical effect of the new appointment will be that in addition to assuming the administration of the government when occasion arises the Chief Justice will be appointed Deputy-Governor, in virtue of his office as Lieutenant-Governor whenever the Governor is absent for a short period from the seat of government or the colony. At present, as there is no Lieutenant-Governor, the Governor has power under the letters patent constituting his office to appoint any person to be his deputy during his temporary absence. His freedom of choice appears to be unrestricted in any way by the letters patent, but as a matter of practice the Deputy-Governor is usually the Chief Justice, or, in his absence, the Senior Judge. It will be seen that the appointment of the Chief Justice as Lieutenant-Governor is strictly of an honorary character. It imposes no duties which the Chief Justice does not already discharge and would continue to discharge so long as he holds the judicial position. Nor is it an office of profit. The appointment is conferred on Chief Justice Way simply with the object of honoring him, and regarded in this light it is certainly a high distinction. On no less than three occasions the Chief Justice has declined honors proposed by the Crown. Twice he has been offered a Knight Bachelorship, and once a Knighthood in the Order of St. Michael and St. George. The dignity to which he is now elevated is, however, much greater than that which would be secured by his addition to the ranks of colonial knights. The office of Lieutenant Governor is an appointment which Chief Justice Way holds direct from the Crown during pleasure. The duty of administering the government when the Governor is absent henceforth belongs to the man, not the position of Chief Justice which he holds, and it will continue to vest in him after he retires from the bench. By this appointment the Crown marks in an exceedingly appropriate way its sense of the value of the public services rendered by the Chief Justice during his exceptionally useful career. In making it there has been a departure from precedent which tends to accentuate the unusual character of the honor conferred on him. Sir Alfred Stephen did not receive the Lieutenant-Governorship of New South Wales until he retired from the Chief Justiceship after 32 years of service. Sir W. F. Stawell was not appointed to the corresponding position in Victoria until his retirement from the Chief Justiceship after 29 years in that office. Chief Justice Way becomes the Lieutenant-Governor of South Australia while he is still in active service, and after a judicial career of only 15 years. It is understood that he was strongly recommended by the Governor for the distinction granted by the Crown, and there can be no doubt that his Excellency suggested a mode of official recognition of the valuable services rendered by Chief Justice Way, which, besides being acceptable to the recipient, will be universally approved. In advising the appointment of a Lieutenant-Governor his Excellency has also been animated by a desire to pay a compliment to the colony over which he presides. The creation of such an office is a distinction for South Australia itself, tending further to emphasize its rank as a first-class colony; while at the same time the appointment of the Chief Justice as the first Lieutenant-Governor is an honor opportunely conferred upon an eminent colonist, who fully merits this mark of royal favor. There is a growing feeling against the bestowal of titles on public men in the colonies, as being out of harmony with the spirit of our democratic institutions. No such objection holds, however, against the appointment of the Chief Justice to the office of Lieutenant-Governor. It gives him a far higher status than any mere title would confer, and at the same time is a singularly fitting reward for his many public services. The distinction has been happily chosen, and its recommendation by the Governor does credit to his judgment, as the appointment serves the double purpose of increasing the colony's prestige and honoring the Chief Justice.