

## The New Judge.

Joshua G. Baker, who took his seat as Judge of Section B, of the Criminal District Court, yesterday, has been Assistant District Attorney for a number of years. He is still a young man, and was admitted to the bar eleven years ago. When John J. Finney was elected District Attorney he made Judge Baker his assistant, and both have represented the State in the criminal courts of this parish ever since. Judge Baker was the prosecuting attorney in the First District Court, over which Judge Abel presided. When the court system was changed and a Criminal Court of two sections provided for, Judge Baker became the prosecuting officer in Section B, over which Judge Luzenberg presided. The resignation of the latter left a vacancy and to fill this Judge Baker was appointed.

Judge Baker is a Louisianian and a grandson of ex-Gov. Baker. The many citizens who have acted as jurors in the courts where Judge Baker prosecuted have left the court room at the end of their term deeply impressed with Mr. Baker's integrity, ability and faithfulness as a lawyer and a man. While zealous in the cause of the suppression of crime Judge Baker never depended upon eloquence nor took any advantage allowed by law, to secure a conviction. It was this honesty of purpose and the belief in his truthfulness and fairness that made him particularly effective before a jury. After some distinguished lawyer had employed all the arts of eloquence on behalf of some criminal Judge Baker would speak to the jury. He introduced no dramatic effects, he merely talked. After he had told the jury that he honestly believed the man guilty few jurors disputed the belief. And Judge Baker never stated that he believed a man guilty unless he was thoroughly convinced that such guilt did exist, and seldom prosecuted where he did not expect a conviction.

The vacancy occurred during a time when the public was particularly watchful and appointments for political purposes would provide derogatory arguments during a campaign. There is little doubt that with Judge Baker on the bench the interests of justice will be safe and the citizens guaranteed protection by a strict and fearless enforcement of the law.

On Monday Judge Baker will appoint a Grand Jury. District Attorney Finney will also introduce his new assistant to the court. The appointment has not yet been announced; but the name of Mr. Charles J. Thoard has been mentioned in connection with the position. He is a young attorney who has shown considerable aptitude for criminal law practice and will make an acceptable prosecuting officer.