

***Edmund Randolph***, jurist, born in Richmond, Virginia, 9 June, 1820; died in San Francisco, California, 8 September, 1861, was the youngest of ten children of Peyton and Maria Ward Randolph. He was graduated at William and Mary college, studied law at the University of Virginia, and began practice in New Orleans. He was for several years clerk of the United States circuit court for Louisiana, but in 1849 he removed to California. He was an active member of the legislature that met at San Jose, 15 December, 1849, to organize a state government, but he was never afterward a candidate for office, though he took an active part in California politics, and was a popular orator. William Walker fixed on Randolph as the chancellor of his proposed Nicaraguan empire. To what extent Randolph participated in that enterprise is not known, but his absence from California was brief. In the great, Almaden mine case the advocacy of the claim of the United States devolved mainly on Randolph. Of this case Jeremiah Black says; *“In the bulk of the record and the magnitude of the interest at stake, this is probably the heaviest case ever heard before a judicial tribunal.”*

On Randolph's argument, submitted after his death, the United States won the case. He was for four years engaged chiefly on this case, and his life was shortened by it. The government paid his widow \$12,000 in addition to the \$5,000 fee which her husband had received. Randolph was the author of *“An Address on the History of California from the Discovery of the Country to the Year 1849,”* which was delivered before the Society of California pioneers, at San Francisco, on 10 September, 1860 (San Francisco, 1860). His argument in the Almaden mine case has also been printed.