

HONORS TO THE DEAD.

FUNERAL SERVICES OF THE HON.
WILLIAM ELWELL.

The funeral services of the late Hon. William Elwell, were held last Friday morning at nine o'clock. The members of the bar of Columbia and Montour Counties assembled in the Court room, and proceeded to his late residence and escorted the remains to St. Paul's Episcopal Church where the services were conducted by the Rector, Rev. D. N. Kirkby. He paid a glowing tribute to the memory of Mr. Elwell and urged the audience to take his life as an example for their's, and so live that their last end might be as peaceful and honored as his had been. He said the "Town Council expressed it all, when they said in their resolution of condolence that he was a good man, and a just judge."

All the places of business in the town, as well as many of the factories were closed, thus showing to some extent the high esteem in which he was held by the community. After the services at the church, the remains were taken to the D. L. & W. Rail Road station, and the party left in a special car for Towanda at 10.49, where the interment was held. The members of the bar re-convened in the Court room with Hon. E. R. Ikeler presiding. Upon motion J. G. Freeze, J. B. Robison and W. H. Rhawn, Esqs., were appointed a committee on resolutions. J. G. Freeze, Esq., who is President of the Bar Association made the following remarks:

MR. PRESIDENT:—It is my sad duty to announce to you the death of Honorable William Elwell, for a quarter of a century the President Judge of this Court. He passed from life about four o'clock on the morning of October 15, 1895, so peacefully that the exact time of his departure was not perceived by his family who were about his bed. He was born on the 9th day of October, 1808.

The death of William Elwell is an event which ought not to be passed over in silence. For more than fifty years he has been a conspicuous man in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and in the line of his profession the peer of any one of his contemporaries. He had been in active practice for almost thirty years before he came upon the Bench, during which time he had been a member of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, and chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

When he came to the Bar in 1833 there had been published but 34 volumes of the decisions of the Supreme Court, and now the official reporter is busy at work upon the 235th volume. When he came to the Bar John Bannister Gibson was Chief Justice and George Mifflin Dallas was Attorney General. And it is remembered that Judge Gibson was appointed to the place in 1827 and has been dead now well on to fifty years, and I venture to say not more than two members of the present bar of this county ever saw him upon the Bench, we can gather some appreciation of the changes witnessed by a man of the age of Judge Elwell.

Take another point from which to measure the march of time. When Judge Elwell was born, George III. was king of Great Britain, and Bonaparte had fought his brilliant Italian campaign and been crowned Emperor of the French. At that time there were but seventeen states in this union—James Madison was president of the United States and Thos. McKean was Governor of the State of Pennsylvania.

I need not in this presence speak of his legal attainments. It will be and remain one of the great recollections of our lives to remember his sure grasp and ready application of legal principles—his quick apprehension of the point counsel were making, his keen insight into the pinch of your case. If in a trial before him you had a case, you had the benefit of all there was in it, and if you had none it was labor lost to endeavor to build it up under his scrutinizing eye.

The study of his character and the example of his life as a judge, as a lawyer, as a citizen, as a man and as a Christian will be and should be the incentive to the constantly higher and higher endeavor to reach the exalted plane on which he stood grandly and steadily.

And though his body be entombed in the sepulchre of mortality, his name and fame will grow brighter as the days decline and the years pass off into eternity.

Judge Ikeler then addressed the members of the Bar, and said:—
GENTLEMEN OF THE BAR:—From the earliest dawn of civilization men

have been accustomed to gather together and pay their respects to the memory, talents and virtues of a departed friend. Even before christianity and civilization had calmed the rude passions and restrained the brutal instincts of mankind, the ignorant pagan and the untaught savage alike gathered beside the grave of their fallen chieftain to extol his prowess or mourn his loss.

And in paying this last tribute to the worthy dead, we not only honor their name, but benefit ourselves as well. Aside from the duty we owe the departed, it is wise for the best of us to lay aside for the moment our personal ambitions and selfish struggles; to pause in the whirl and hurry of our daily lives, and reflect upon the life, character and learning of a virtuous man and upright Judge.

I can say little of Judge Elwell that is not already known to the most of the members of the bar. For 26 years he went in and out before you as the President of this Court. It was here, in your presence, that his labor was performed, that his ability was exhibited, that his talents were exercised. To all of you, except possibly the younger members, his appearance, disposition and manner while upon the bench, is familiar. The records of the Court, the official reports of decisions evidence his skill in the disposition of causes far better than mere words of comparison or praise.

Like all Judges, he made mistakes. To say this is but to say, "he was human." But no man was more patient in listening to an exposition of his error, or more ready to correct it when once convinced of his mistake.

His active professional life was spent in a foreign county, and of his ability as a practitioner we know little except by repute. But in the earlier history of Bradford county his name as a practicing attorney stands in the foremost ranks of a Bar of more than ordinary ability.

In 1862 he came to this county, bearing with him the universal respect and admiration of his former friends and neighbors. To-day his body is carried back to the scenes of his youth, followed by the regret and sorrow of all who had learned to know him in his adopted home.

When we reflect upon these things; when we think of his useful and honorable career, his long life and peaceful death, mingled with all our sorrow at his taking off, may we not be permitted to indulge a certain feeling of refined satisfaction that an all wise Providence has permitted so beautiful a rounding out of his high career, and that when the iron gates of inexorable death did finally close behind his retreating figure, there was neither the creaking of a bolt nor the grating of a hinge." Upon the conclusion of the remarks of Judge Ikeler, William H. Rhawn, Esq., said:

"Mr. Chairman, I desire to pay a due tribute to the distinguished dead, and the tribute is this: The rule of conduct of Judge Elwell, as a minister of justice upon the judgment seat for more than a quarter of a century, was righteousness, the subject matter of the profession of the law—nay, more, its principal lesson, and which every member of the profession should prize above honor, success or wealth, as the rule to guide him in the discharge of his duties. It is, therefore, eminently proper that the profession as a body should by appropriate consideration and resolution perpetuate the character of Judge Elwell as a minister of justice; not that it will add to his fame, but because it will be, so long as time shall last a teacher to the profession of what constitutes righteousness, and more than that, a teacher that yonder judgment-seat continue as Judge Elwell left it, an emblem of that higher judgment-seat of which perfect righteousness is the habitation"

J. Boyd Robison, Esq., said: "I do not think that an occasion of this kind should pass without some of us who have practiced before Judge Elwell at least testifying to our respect for him as a judge and as a citizen. When we reflect that it is just a generation, in the ordinary acceptance of the term, since Judge Elwell came to this county, the bar here has almost entirely grown up under him. There are few of our present members who were members of the bar when he began to preside over the deliberations of the court. Myself, while one of the older members of the bar here, came several years after and became a member of the bar or was admitted to practice since Judge Elwell commenced holding courts in Columbia County. We have known him in active work for more than a quarter of a century and several years later as a citizen in our midst, and we speak of his high character as a judge and of his high character as a citizen. We also look with pleasure upon the fact

that he attended to his duties with a heart filled with love for the profession which he had chosen. I was surprised to find that Judge Elwell, after his retirement from the bench, when there was no longer a field for the exercise of his abilities in his profession, when there was no longer any work for him to do, when he was simply waiting summons from a life well spent, took pleasure in keeping alive knowledge of the line of current judicial decision—the knowledge of the law. He read law journals, he read the reports, he studied. He was naturally a thorough student, and he kept up his studies to his dying day. He is an example to those who were with him and to those who come after him, to the young, of the excellency resulting from labor. His attention to his duties was given in industry—earnest, active, tireless, determined to do right and to make inquiry and find out and satisfy himself of that which was right. Judge Elwell has left his monument in better shape than we can give it here. Anything that we can say here can add nothing to that which is recorded, as your honor has well said, in the reports of the common pleas courts and of the supreme court; yet, as it is fitting that we should put upon record our appreciation of his high character, I suggest that the papers here read and others that I understand are in the possession of the president of our association, should be spread upon the minutes of the court of common pleas of this county, for Judge Elwell was particularly eminent as a judge of common pleas."

C. G. Barkley, Esq., said: With the exception of the president of our association and perhaps also the chairman of this meeting, I am the only member of the bar present who was engaged in practice at the time that Judge Elwell came here to perform the duties of president judge in this judicial district. I do not propose or expect to add anything new or better expressed than has been made here relative to the life of Judge Elwell and his work. I am unable adequately to express the respect which I have always had for him and which I believe has always been had by every member of the bar here, as well as also by the entire community within which he has resided during the last thirty-three years. He was just; he was true; he was reliable in all his affairs. His life was that of a good citizen, of one who desired that his work should prove good for human kind. Not selfish, not disposed to exalt himself but rather to serve his fellow men, as his life's work shows, the memory of him with those who have known him, who have seen his life, his self denial, his devotion to the truth, in a word his uprightness in every sphere of duty, may be, I hope, of even more advantage to the generation present and to those who shall follow than was in fact his life."

Hon. C. G. Murphy said: As the last remaining member of the bench from which Judge Elwell voluntarily retired, it is perhaps not fitting that I should add my tribute of respect to his memory. During my opportunity for observation of his judicial action I can testify to his kindness to all those who appeared before him. He encouraged the timid, he admonished the wavering; he loved them all. His memory will remain green in the community in which he lived when perhaps most of us will have been forgotten."

A communication was presented to the Bar meeting, from A. Logan Grim Esquire, of the Sullivan County Bar. It was an eloquent tribute to the kindness, learning ability and distinguishing characteristics of Judge Elwell. Mr. Grim was acquainted with him for many years and had practiced at the Bar of Sullivan county while Judge Elwell was the presiding Judge. The communication was too long to print, and was ordered to be filed among the proceedings of the Bar commemorating the occasion. We can not however refrain from copying a paragraph. "The sculptured marble will return to its kindred dust—kingdoms will pass away as the dews of the morning—Empires will fall and the knowledge of their existence be buried in the tomb of oblivion—but the deeds of the good and the true will survive the devastations of time, and sparkle as the gems in the diadem of immortality."

On motion adjourned.

The funeral train reached Towanda at 3.40 in the afternoon, and was met at the depot by the members of the Bar of Bradford county, headed by Judge Peck. The remains were taken directly to Riverside Cemetery and buried in the family plot, the services being conducted by Rev. W. E. Daw, rector of Christ Church, Towanda. There was a large gathering of the

citizens present at the cemetery, to do honor to the memory of one who, though he left them many years ago, had not been forgotten by them. The last prayers were said, the last words uttered, and the mortal remains of William Elwell were committed to the grave, "earth to earth, dust to dust, ashes to ashes." His life work is done, but the memory of his goodness, his greatness, his simplicity, his dignity, his perfect christian manhood, will remain with those who knew him, so long as life shall last.

WOMAN DROWNED.

Last Thursday afternoon quite an excitement was caused on the streets by the report being circulated that a woman had been accidentally drowned in the canal at Port Noble. Investigation proved that the report was correct and that the unfortunate person was Mrs. John James. It appears that, owing to a scarcity of water at her own home, she had gone to the above named place to do her washing, and in stooping over to get some water from the canal, in some unaccountable manner her foot slipped, and she was precipitated into it. She was alone at the time and upon her failure to return her friends became alarmed, and in their search for her, discovered one of the buckets which she had taken for water on the bank, and immediately came to the conclusion that she had been drowned. The alarm was given, and search was made by Curt Logan, and Harry Rux, which resulted in finding her dead body on the bottom of the canal. An inquest was held by J. M. Clark Justice of the Peace, and the jury rendered a verdict of accidental death by drowning. She was a daughter of Augustus Brooks of Catawissa and was aged twenty-three years, six months and three days, and left to survive her a husband above named and one small child. The death was unusually sad, happening as it did only a few days after the return of her husband to Connecticut where he is employed. The funeral services were held from her late residence Sunday afternoon and she was taken to Catawissa for interment.

MRS. MARY ENT DEAD.

Surely during the past week, the grim harvester death has been at work in our midst, and has removed an unusually large number of our citizens. On last Thursday night Mrs. Mary Ent who resided on Centre Street was called to her rest. She had been sick only a very short time, and died at twenty minutes before seven o'clock. She was born March 11th 1842, and hence at the time of her death was fifty-three years, seven months and six days old. She was the widow of the late Oscar Ent, and resided in Light Street, until about two years ago, when she moved to this town. She left to survive her a daughter, Clara, and two sons, Edward and Oscar. The funeral services were held Sunday afternoon at one o'clock in the Methodist Episcopal church at Light Street conducted by her pastor Rev. B. C. Conner of this place and Rev. R. E. Wilson, pastor in charge. The circumstances surrounding this death were extremely sad, and the children and relatives have the sympathy of the entire community in their bereavement.

A YOUNG LADY DEAD.

On Monday afternoon, after a severe illness of typhoid fever Miss Nettie M. daughter of George F. Crist, residing on Leonard Street was called from her sufferings. She was aged seventeen years, three months and four days. Owing to her genial disposition of character, she was a favorite among her companions who, as well as all her other friends, mourn her death. The remains were taken to Gordner's Grove Baptist Church Wednesday morning and the services were conducted by Rev. Crawford of Unityville.

Mr. Grant Richart died at his residence in San Diego, California October 11th. The funeral services were held at the residence of George M. D. Newhard at Milton Pa. last Sunday. He was aged 30 years and 27 days, and was a nephew of Mrs. Samuel Neyhard and W. C. Richart of this place. His father died in Millville about twenty-two years ago, after which he and his mother moved to the above named State.

William Gingles, and J. K. Bittenbender, who have been summoned as traverse and grand jurors respectively in the United States Court at Pittsburg left for that place last Sunday evening on the Pennsylvania Rail Road.

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- Men's blue and black Kersy overcoats, the \$8.00 kind \$6.50.
- Young men's black and blue cheviot suits \$5.00.
- Child's age 5 to 15, double seat, double knee, all wool, fast color \$2.50
- Children's detachable cape coats \$1.48.
- Better coats, detachable cape \$1.98.
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