HOME MATTERS.

DEATH OF JUDGE FORWARD.

After the District Court had assembled on yesterday morning, Judge Shaler arose to announce the decease of the Hon. WALTER FORWARD, President Judge of the District Court. He remarked that, at the request of many members of the Bar, and being himself the oldest member, he would rise to announce officially a dispensation that was but too well known in this community. He would say that he alluded to the decease of the great, the dilating wished, the good colleague of Judge Williams. If any person should feel strong emotions in undertaking this task, it would be himself. Judge Forward was the last of those great and eminent men with whom the speaker had been associated in early life. He had been admitted to the Bar in 1806. He was young, enthusiastic, active and eloquent, but he was poor. There were giants in those days, and to them he had to oppose his youth, his enthusiasm, his activity, and his eloquence. Woods, Ross, Semple, Foster, Judges Baldwin, Wilkin, and other of those great spirits then stood at the head of the profession, and they were the men that Mr. Forward had to contend with. But he brought a new element into that contest. He was a man of genius; and instead of sinking to the cause before him, he raised it by the strength of his justice and his eloquence, and presented it successfully to the court and jury. He had the genius of a poet, and the heart of an orator. Whatever others might think, he always believed in the justice of his cause, in all its particulars and all its bearings. In his private and his public life he was always the same. His colloquial powers were not simply pleasing—they were brilliant and extraordinary. He was not a mere classical scholar merely, he was a classic. When you conversed with him it was not of Greek or Roman that he spoke, but a Greek or Roman stood before you. With him you entered the Acropolis, and looked upon the glories of the past. When he spoke of philosophy, a disciple of Socrates would seem to emerge from the shades of the Academy. If he alluded to Thermopylæ, Leonidas would stand before you in his immortal panoply. When he spoke of Rome, a Conscript Father would arise before you. It seemed, indeed, as if the spirit of some great and mighty man had risen from its mausoleum.

The speaker then alluded to the political career of Judge Forward, and spoke of him as one that was not wedded to party,—one whose principles were formed in his own soul, so that it appeared as if a burning coal had been taken from the altar of patriotism and implanted in his bosom. After filling many important posts, he was raised to the Bench, and became your colleague. How greatly, how nobly he fulfilled that duty, all know. His exhibitions of good sense, as a counsellor; the justice and equity of his feelings were appreciated by his colleague. The places that knew him will know him no more. The speaker had been with him in his last hours, and had found him calm, cool and collected. He died, as the speaker trusted all present might die—with the hope and decorum that should become a Christian. He lived an honest and incorruptible man—a pure Judge. May he rest in peace.

Judge Shaler then moved that the Court adjourn until such time as might be deemed proper. Every one should remember, however, that this was a testimony of regard for no ordinary man, but for a great and able one. He also hoped that arrangements would be made for the attendance of the members of the bar, when the day arrived to conduct the body of the deceased to the mausoleum.

Judge Williams then remarked, that the decease of his esteemed colleague had been sudden and unexpected to him. He had parted with him on the evening before with the expectation of seeing him in a better state of health in the morning, and he had promised to call and see him. He felt that the present was not the time to speak, it was the time for grief. When he thought of Judge Forward, it was not of his great talents and acquirements, it was of the greatness of his heart. He never knew a kinder man in his life. The lamented Judge had been more than a brother to him, and he never knew a stronger sense of justice, and a desire to do nothing but what was right than was possessed by him. Judge Williams did not speak of him prior to his possessing the seat upon the Bench, but afterwards. He had known him previously, but did not become intimate with him. The distance which he had felt wise between him and his associated colleagues, from the superior age and attainments of the latter, had been removed by his kindness, and he acted like a brother. He was always willing to consult with him, and to give him advice. The speaker loved him for the greatness of heart, and for his strong sense of overruling Providence. He did not believe that a sparrow fails to the ground without His notice, and that even the hairs of our head are numbered.

His Honor then announced that a meeting of the Bar would be held in the afternoon, at 3 o'clock, past that the Court would adjourn until Saturday morning at 10 o'clock.

MEETING OF THE BAR.

According to announcement the members of the Bar assembled in the District Court-room, at 3 o'clock, yesterday, to adopt resolutions expressive of their respect for the memory of the Hon. WALTER FORWARD. On motion of Judge Shaler, Judge Wilkins was called to the chair, and Judge Hepburn and the Hon. Moses Hampton were appointed secretaries.

Judge Wilkins, on taking the chair, remarked that his brethren were all aware of the melancholy occasion which had brought them together. It did not become him—he could not speak of the bereavement which the entire community had met with in the decease of Walter Forward. His long, honorable and associated with him during the whole of his professional life, with the exception of four or five years. He preceded his admission to the bar about that length of time. He had only to say that during their long and intimate intercourse, both in private and professional life, every hour and circumstance tended to establish his enlarged and valuable character. The gentlemen of the Bar were aware of his professional acquirements. They were aware of the pebble lore, but no person that heard him then could have any conception on knowledge of the court's learning as he had. As violent as was the speaker's temper, when opposed, every hour of their intercourse was passed harmoniously and in good will. He felt his loss most severely. He could not speak of him as he would desire to do, and he begged that the meeting would let him off, and suggest the usual opening address.

The Chairman then announced that the meeting was fully organized, and was prepared to receive any motion that might be made.

Mr. Williams, Esq., then arose and said that he was unprepared, as doubtless they all did, with the feelings expressed by the Chairman, in this sudden and unexpected catastrophe. He was met on his way to the Court House, in the morning, and informed of the decease of his esteemed friend. It came as it were like a thunderbolt from a clear sky, and fell upon him.

He had been requested by those who were better able than himself to draw up a few resolutions to be presented to the members of the bar which he was informed was to be held this afternoon. He had prepared a few or three resolutions he would present, if no other gentleman had resolutions which had been drawn up for this occasion. It would perhaps be proper to have the resolutions passed through a Committee. If it was their pleasure, however, he would read what he had written. Other gentlemen who were present would offer resolutions fully than he, the great loss which they had all sustained.

Resolved, That the members of this bar have heard with the profoundest grief the startling announcement which broke upon them so unexpectedly this morning, that the Honorable WALTER FORWARD, the venerated Chief of the District Court of this County, and the oldest of their Professional brethren, had parted with them forever.

Resolved, That in the defense of their distinguished Brother, in whom character were so admirably and beautifully blended the very highest moral powers qualities of the intellect, as well as of the heart, so that while there was much to admire in the greatness of his abilities, there was still more to love in the fervor and simplicity of his affections, they feel that they have indeed lost a friend.

Resolved, That while they thus indulge the expression of the feeling which has grown out of the most personal relations with the deceased, they sincerely also, in addition to their own, sympathize with and share irreparable loss which the whole country and more irreparable loss which the whole country and more irreparable loss which the community has sustained by the public in the removal by death of Judge whose ripe experience and known ability as a lawyer, serious than his remarkable accumulation as a man, have won for him a degree of public confidence which few men, however exalted their stations, have ever reposed to acquire.

Resolved, That while they would endeavor the usual forms of eulogy as expressive of true grief, and unworthy of the memories of the truly great, they cannot forbear the remark that amongst the many bright and shining names which have been so recently numbered with the dead, a the alley; the stairway leading from the second to the lower room is very steep, and requires a man to be pretty sober to go down safely; one would not fall the entire way, as there was a bend on the stairs; there is first a broad step, and then five or six small steep steps above that.

Here the evidence for the prosecution rested. The Hon. Cornelius Darragh opened the case for the defence, by a general review of the testimony for the prosecution. His remarks occupied about a half an hour. The following witnesses were then called for the defence.

George Gardner, sworn—I was at Alderman Thompson's office; asked him why Irwin was not arrested, and he said there was no complaint against him; I went over to the house, and heard Mrs. Taylor say that Cavan had fallen down stairs the day before; after that I came down the steps where all these colored people were; Nancy Maden said that if there was any murder, it had been a very still one, and said she didn't know any thing about it; Mr. Criswell, the constable, was standing close by, and might have heard it; I never had the conversation related by Nancy Maden, with her as to Irwin being in the country; I have not seen that woman sober for one year; I have seen her so drunk that when she went to Alderman Thompson for her child, she was too drunk to stand on the platform; she never works; her character is infamous; she has no character at all; I have known deceased for four or five years; he has been sober this summer than he was before; he was perfectly foolish from drunkenness; he offered me his coat for two cents but two days before he was hurt; I have seen him sleeping in the brick yard, and in the stable of Mr. Gordon; I would not believe what Nancy would say; I have seen the inside steps in Taylor's house; they are winding, steep stairs; I would not like to fall down sober; a man would fall between seven and eight feet; he would strike the corner of the steps.

Cross-examined—Besides the constable, there were several other colored persons when I was talking to Nancy—Charles Beanor, and two or three others. John Ford's daughter was present too; I cannot say that Nancy was drunk at the time I was talking to her: nobody told me to make the inquiry; the first I heard of it was at Thompson's. There is no particular intimacy between the prisoner and myself; I was bail for him only once; I never was at a party with Irwin's wife and him; I never was a witness for defence; Nancy was standing a few steps from her own door; I did say to her that she did not know anything about the occurrence; never spoke to her at all before; I associate with my equals; Nancy is not my equal; she is a drunken, lazy, worthless creature; I visit the graves and fountains, and the temples of Greece and Rome; to commune with their sages and philosophers, their poets and historians; to gaze upon their wonderful productions of genius and invention, his inspiration was drawn from higher sources. His genius, bright, glowing, transcendent, sprang from the Eternal, like Minerva from the teeming brain of Almighty Jove; completely prepared for all the purposes and exigencies of being and action. It never flagged, or faltered, or failed. In every vicissitude and effort, it illuminated his path, and graced his triumphs. He was truly a man of great and varied acquirements—of extraordinary and transcendent powers. Sometimes his clear and unclouded reason sounded the very depths of philosophy; sometimes his vivid and brilliant imagination soared, like the eagle, above the heights of Parnassus. From the purity and virtues of his life, the serenity and tranquility of his death, may we not readily imagine that, as the scenes of earth receded from his lingering gaze, and the visions of eternity burst upon his enraptured view, he faintly and happily breathed,

"Joy, joy forever—my task is done,
The gates are passed, and heaven is won."

Mr. Bitelle then stated that the funeral of Judge Forward would leave his late residence on Wylie street, and proceed to the cemetery on his farm, in Peebles township, on Friday morning next.

Judge Shaler moved that the proceedings of this meeting be published in the various papers of the city.

The meeting then adjourned to re-assemble on Friday, at nine o'clock, in the Court House and from thence to proceed to the residence of Judge Forward, on Wylie street.

TRIAL FOR MURDER.

SECOND DAY.

Wednesday, Nov. 24th.

At the opening of the Court of Oyer and Terminer, the death of Judge Forward was announced, but the usual testimonies of respect were postponed until the conclusion of the case of James Irwin, indicted for murder. From the peculiar circumstances of this trial, it was impossible to delay its progress. Accordingly the prisoner was brought into Court, and the trial proceeded with. Mr. Flanegin called for the prosecution.

John Gordon, who was sworn—Resides in the 7th Ward, was acquainted with John Cavan, deceased, and also with James Irwin; have been acquainted with the prisoner at the bar 10 years; deceased and the prisoner at the bar were friends; I went to bed in the spontaneous and gushing tears of the poor, the unfortunate, the widow and the orphan, whose rights he has vindicated, whose interests he has protected; in the gratitude and thanksgiving of the powerless and persecuted captive, set free by the magic of his genius and the power of his eloquence; in the universal concession by the entire community in which he lived and died, that truth, honor, integrity, kindness and humanity, were the pervading and controlling influences of his life. However much he may have delighted to dwell upon the interesting scenes and events of antiquity; to visit the groves, and fountains, and temples of Greece and Rome; to commune with their sages and philosophers, their poets and historians; to gaze upon their wonderful productions of genius and invention, his inspiration was drawn from higher sources. His genius, bright, glowing, transcendent, sprang from the Eternal, like Minerva from the teeming brain of Almighty Jove; completely prepared for all the purposes and exigencies of being and action. It never flagged, or faltered, or failed. In every vicissitude and effort, it illuminated his path, and graced his triumphs. He was truly a man of great and varied acquirements—of extraordinary and transcendent powers. Sometimes his clear and unclouded reason sounded the very depths of philosophy; sometimes his vivid and brilliant imagination soared, like the eagle, above the heights of Parnassus. From the purity and virtues of his life, the serenity and tranquility of his death, may we not readily imagine that, as the scenes of earth receded from his lingering gaze, and the visions of eternity burst upon his enraptured view, he faintly and happily breathed,

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