

JUDGE SKINNER.

Oasis C. Skinner, the report of whose death on Sunday morning last was a shock to the entire community, for over thirty years past has been one of our most distinguished and respected citizens. He is also widely known throughout the State, having held several positions of prominence, and occupying a leading place among the ablest lawyers of the west. Judge Skinner was born in Oneida county, New York, in the year 1815 and was therefore at the time of his death 62 years of age. At an early period in his life, he came west, settled temporarily in Peoria county, and thence went to Cincinnati,

where he studied law and was admitted to practice in 1841. For some years or less years thereafter he lived in Burlington, Hancock county, in the State, but he moved to Quincy in 1844, where he has since resided. He was elected Circuit Judge in 1861, and was called to the Supreme Bench of Illinois four years afterwards. He had been a member of the Legislature prior to that time. Retiring from the bench in the year 1866 he applied himself to an extensive practice and in 1870 his value was recognized in his selection to represent Adams county, with Hon. O. H. Browning, in the Constitutional Convention of that year, in which the distinguished body he was elected to the position of Chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

Since that period Judge Skinner has not been in public life, but has devoted himself to his profession, and has been situated among the foremost of the Illinois bar. When on the bench his decisions, some of which are among the most important ever rendered in our State, are looked upon as models of legal strength and comprehension. He had that grasp of almost all questions of law, that led him by a direct method to the heart of the subject, and rendered him a valuable advocate to his client, and a formidable adversary in the legal arena. His name must now be added to the list of the illustrious dead of our State. He has followed Estlin, Downes, Baker, Williams and Richardson, all of whom were his contemporaries, his friends and his associates in the courts during the past quarter of a century. The personal qualities of Skinner endeared him to a large circle of friends throughout the State and the country.

A great hearted man, with ardent, generous impulses, he was noted for those impromptu deeds of goodness and benevolence, that proved how easily he was moved at every story of suffering, and how quickly he responded with liberal hand to all these calls upon his humanity. His eccentricity, and seeming abruptness at times, were characteristic of the man, but there was nothing morbid or repellent in his nature, nor in his social relations did he evince other than the courteous, genial tendencies which made him popular with all. He had his faults, as all of us have, but they were such as are seldom associated with an illiberal mind, or an ungenerous soul, and his many noble qualities of intellect and of disposition will make us remember him only as the able and honorable jurist, the public spirited citizen, the true friend, the kind neighbor. All who knew him well will

remember him very kind
to the heart of the mind.

Our people will long mourn the death of Judge Skinner, for he was a faithful and upright man and an earnest counsellor in all matters of public welfare. The profession has lost an eminent member and the State an honored and valuable citizen. May the rest in peace.