

### JUDGE LAWRENCE.

The REGISTER'S telegraphic columns this morning announce the death of Judge CHARLES B. LAWRENCE, of Chicago, at Decatur, Alabama, on yesterday. Judge LAWRENCE was one of the best known jurists of this state, having served many years on the supreme bench, three years of which he was chief justice.

Judge LAWRENCE was a native of Vermont and was about sixty-five years of age at the time of his death. He received a thorough classical education, and in his young manhood taught school in Alabama. In due time he came north and settled in Quincy, Ill., where he engaged in the practice of law, forming a partnership with Archibald Williams. His health failed him and he went to Europe where he spent two years. After returning to this country he began farming in Knox county. While engaged in this work he was solicited to run for Circuit judge, and was elected in 1861 as judge of the Circuit court of that judicial circuit. Before his term expired as Circuit judge he was elected to the Supreme bench, and in July, 1864, resigned the former to accept the latter position. In 1870 he became chief justice, which he held to the end of his term in 1873.

Two of Judge LAWRENCE'S decisions while on the Supreme bench gave him a national reputation. One was the case of JOHNSON vs JONES (44th Ill. page 42) involving the question of arbitrary arrest upon

executive authority. He was the only republican on the bench and had the courage to write the opinion following the opinion of United States Judge Davis in the Milligan case, in which he said, "martial rule cannot exist where the courts are open and in the proper and uninterrupted exercise of their jurisdiction." He also wrote the opinion in the case of the C. & A. R. R. Co. vs. The People, (67 Ill., p. 11) involving the question of the constitutionality of the act of 1871, in respect to unjust discrimination by railroads in the carriage of freight and passengers. The law was held to be unconstitutional. This in the face of the granger craze and the pending of his candidacy for re-election illustrates the courage of his character. The opinion pointed out what legislation might be had, and it has been the guide for subsequent legislation. It was for a fierce newspaper criticism of this opinion that Judge LAWRENCE called Messrs. SHERMAN and WILSON, editors of the Chicago Journal, before him at Ottawa and fined them for contempt of court. He also ordered them imprisoned, but this order was rescinded. This decision and the opposition engendered by his fining of the Journal proprietors, led to his defeat by Judge CRAIG in 1873.

Since Judge LAWRENCE's retirement from the bench in 1873, he has been practicing law in Chicago, where he was the senior member of the firm of LAWRENCE, CAMPBELL & LAWRENCE, the latter a nephew of the judge.

The death of this distinguished jurist and lawyer will cause a deep feeling of sorrow among the members of the profession which he adorned, as well as among his hosts of personal friends in other walks of life throughout the state.

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