

OBITUARY.

JUDGE CHARLES B. LAWRENCE.

CHICAGO, April 9.—A private telegram announces the death of Judge Charles B. Lawrence at Decatur, Ala., this morning. The event is unexpected, save that the jurist had been in delicate health and went south to recuperate. He was for 9 years a member of the Illinois Supreme Bench, and the latter portion of the term Chief Justice. He retired in 1873. Since then he has been a member of the Chicago bar.

Judge Lawrence was a native of Vermont. In his young days he went south and taught school. Then he came to Illinois, and settled at Quincy, where he was a law partner of the late Archibald Williams, the firm being Williams & Lawrence. He went abroad for some years and subsequently he removed to Knox county. He was elected Circuit Judge of the Tenth Judicial Circuit, having been commissioned July 1, 1861, and holding the office until his resignation, July 21, 1864. He had been elected to the Supreme Bench of Illinois on June 6, 1864, for a term of 9 years. He became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court June 6, 1870, and retired June 2, 1873. There were two notable opinions rendered by him while he held this exalted position. One was in the case of Johnson vs. Jones et al., in 44th Ill., 142. Jones was United States Marshal, and arrested Johnson for being a member of the order of Knights of the Golden Circle, and Johnson sued Jones for false imprisonment, Judge Lawrence holding that martial law could not be established where the process of judicial proceedings was open and unobstructed. The second important decision was in what was known as "the great Granger case," the Chicago & Alton Railway Company vs. the People, involving the constitutionality of the act of 1871 relating to unjust discriminations in passenger and freight charges; in which Judge Lawrence held the law unconstitutional, but pointed out such proper legislation as could be had for the protection of the people, the theory of which has been followed by acts since passed by the Legislature on the subject.

After retiring from the bench and locating in Chicago, Judge Lawrence was asked to become a partner in the firm of Winston & Campbell; but Mr. Winston retired, and the firm became Lawrence, Campbell & Lawrence, a partnership which has continued up to this time. Judge Lawrence was regarded as one of the best lawyers of the State and was held in high estimation for his social qualities. At the meeting of the State Bar Association in this city in January of 1882, he delivered the eulogy on the late Hon. A. H. Browning, whom he had known intimately since his residence in Quincy.