

DEATH OF HON. JESSE B. THOMAS.

We are pained to announce the death of this able jurist and accomplished gentleman, late Judge of the Supreme Court of this State. He had been for some days suffering under an attack of erysipelas, which a short time previous to his decease assumed the malignant form. He was conscious of his approaching dissolution from the commencement of the attack, and accordingly set himself to prepare his temporal affairs in anticipation of his departure.

Judge Thomas emigrated to the southern portion of this State from Jackson, Missouri in 1831, nearly twenty years ago, and has since then filled various important offices almost uninterruptedly up to a short time previous to his decease. But a short time subsequently to his becoming a citizen, he was elected Secretary of the Senate; was afterwards elected to both branches of the Legislature successively; filled the office of Attorney General of the State; Attorney to the State Bank; Commissioner of Internal Improvements; and Judge of the Supreme and Circuit Courts.

In the year 1844 he removed from Springfield to this city, upon being assigned to this Judicial Circuit.

He was for many years a communicant of the Baptist church; and up to his decease was a member of the First Baptist Society (Dr. Tucker's church) in this city.

Judge Thomas was in the 44th year of his age. He leaves a large and interesting family, and, we are happy to learn, through his exertions in easy circumstances.

Yesterday morning the Cook County Court of Common Pleas adjourned until this morning, in respect to the memory of the deceased. A meeting of the bar was held yesterday afternoon, the proceedings of which we annex.

MEETING OF THE BAR.

At the opening of the Cook County Court of Common Pleas on Thursday morning, Isaac N. Arnold, Esq., announced in an appropriate and feeling address the decease of Hon. JESSE B. THOMAS. Upon his motion the court adjourned.

After adjournment, a meeting of the Bar was called; and upon motion, J. M. Wilson, Esq., was called to the chair, and George W. Lay, Esq. appointed secretary.

On motion of B. S. Morris, Esq., the chair appointed a committee, consisting of the following gentlemen, to draft resolutions expressive of the sentiments of the members of the bar in view of the bereavement experienced in the loss of one of its most distinguished members:

B. S. Morris, Grant Goodrich, P. Hallingall, E. Peck, George Manierre.

On motion of E. Peck, Esq. the meeting adjourned till 4 o'clock P. M.

At the adjourned meeting the committee through their chairman, reported the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the members of this bar have learned the death of Hon. Jesse B. Thomas with the deepest sensibility; that in this most unlooked for event,—removing as it does from amongst us one so eminent as a jurist, so respected as a citizen, and so loved as a man, we are again reminded of the truth—so mournful we make haste to forget, that death is, indeed, no respecter of persons, and that our days are as a shadow upon the earth.

Resolved, That the career of the deceased was ever honorable to himself and useful to the public; that in the various and important offices he has filled, he has distinguished himself alike for zeal, ability, and a regard for the true interests of the State; that especially as a Judge in the discharge of whose responsible duties he was so recently engaged, did he manifest that power of intellect, fidelity of purpose, and extent of erudition; that depth of investigation and that love of justice, so indispensable to the due administration of the law, and which will hereafter be the enduring basis of his reputation; that not only in these respects did he exhibit the qualities of a great and good judge but also in those other not less essential particulars, evinced by patience, in a disposition to learn, urbanity of deportment, kindness of temper and gentleness of manners; winning forward the young and inexperienced practitioner by the benignity of his countenance and the unaffected interest with which he listened; and a ways commanding the respect of the profession by the uniform correctness of his decisions; the reputation of such a Judge associated as it is with the judicial history of the State, cannot pass away; such qualities and such a spirit, will endear his memory to us and our children for many generations.

Resolved, That in this lamented death we have lost not only an eminent citizen but a friend; a man susceptible to all the kindest impulses of the heart; honorable of purpose, efficient and scrupulous in action; his departure deprives our city of one of its most distinguished ornaments: the social circle of one of its most agreeable attractions; his family of the best of husbands and fathers; and the church, in whose faith his spirit sought the bosom of his God, the chiefest of its pillars.

Resolved, That we grieve with his afflicted family in the severity of the blow which has fallen upon them, and tender to them our deepest sympathies, and that as a mark of our respect for the memory of their distinguished dead we will attend his funeral in a body and wear for a period of thirty days the usual badge of mourning.

Resolved, That the Supreme Court at its next session at Springfield, the Circuit Court of this County at its next term, and the Cook County Court of Common Pleas, now in session at the opening thereof on Friday morning next, be requested to enter these proceedings on their records, and that the editors of the newspapers in this city and at Ottawa be requested to publish them.

Resolved, That the Secretary of this meeting transmit to the mother, bereaved widow and family of Judge Thomas a copy of these proceedings, in testimony of our sincere condolence in their heavy affliction.

Resolved, That on the presentation of the foregoing resolutions the Judge of the Cook County Court of Common Pleas be requested to adjourn Court until Saturday morning.

On motion, the meeting adjourned until 1½ o'clock, to attend the funeral.

JOHN M. WILSON, Chairman.

GEO. W. LAY, Secretary.