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IN MEMORIAM

ORIGEN STORRS SEYMOUR.

MEMORIAL  
OF  
ORIGEN STORRS SEYMOUR,  
OF  
LITCHFIELD, CONNECTICUT.

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BORN FEBRUARY 9, 1804.  
DIED AUGUST 12, 1881.

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Printed for Family Circulation.

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This Memorial of JUDGE SEYMOUR contains some of the public expressions of sorrow for his death, together with the address of Bishop Williams at his funeral, and a memorial sermon delivered by the Rev. Timothy Dwight, D. D., in the Congregational Church at Litchfield, August 28, 1881.

## BISHOP WILLIAMS' ADDRESS AT THE FUNERAL.

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It is with very great and unfeigned hesitancy that I undertake to say something of that noble and fruitful life, the earthly close of which has cast so wide a shadow on the Church and on the State.

The reason for this hesitancy is two-fold: First, I cannot but fear that in adding anything to the solemn and sufficing Burial Service, I am doing that which he whom God has taken from us would have wished might not be done; and, next, I deeply feel my powerlessness to speak such fitting words as his life and character demand.

Still, every heart will own that some words of honest testimony cannot be out of place; and since they are not absolutely forbidden, they shall be uttered in the hope that whatever lack of fullness may be found in them will be partially, at least, atoned for by the deep reverence and affection with which they will be spoken.

There are some characters, would God there were more, whose very completeness and balanced harmony make it difficult, I will not say to frame in one's mind, but to present in words, any adequate view of the elements that make up

their well-rounded greatness. Their symmetry is such, their component parts are so blended into one, that the attempt to separate these parts, to speak of them—even to think of them—each by itself, involves no little risk of marring that which is, in itself, so fair. We stand in reverent admiration before such a character; we rejoice in its beauty and its influence; we receive with thankfulness the great lessons that it teaches us; we recognize in it the noblest of human effort working under the guidance and the grace of God; but we shrink from analyzing, from taking into separate account those various excellences, in which “all the building, fitly framed together, has grown into a holy temple in the Lord.”

No one who knew him will, I think, accuse me of passing restrained sobriety of speech when I say that the character of that truly great and good man, in the light of whose example God permitted us “to rejoice for a season,” was such as has just been briefly outlined. It was symmetrical, balanced, proportioned; many-sided, if you will, but with a marvellous unity about it still.

Look at him in what position and under what circumstances you might: on the Judicial Bench, at the Bar, in the Legislative Assembly of the State or of the Church, you saw not merely the Judge, the Lawyer, or the Legislator; but you saw the man. And it was this symmetrical and noble manhood that won to him the confidence, the reverence, the love that gathered round him as his life went on; that were

never greater than when that life was passing away from earth ; that were never stronger in men's hearts than they are to-day beside his grave.

As I look back over a life which it has been my privilege to know for almost the years of a generation, I seem to have the vision of one of those bright summer days, those "bridal days of earth and sky," which from the quiet dawning has moved gently onward to the peaceful noontide, and the more peaceful sunset, broken by no storms and marred by no convulsions.

You do not care, as the vision rises to your eye, to separate and count the moments or the hours of such a day. You take it as a whole, refraining from all rude touch of that whole, even in your thoughts ; and you rest, you rejoice in resting, in the sweet impression of living beauty and unbroken peace.

Blessed the life that finds its emblem in a day like that, and, therefore, blessed that life which has here passed from the seen and temporal into the unseen and eternal.

It will be for others, in due time and place, to speak of the just Judge and the upright Lawyer—"the Doctor of the Law had in reputation among all the people"—of the wise Legislator and Statesman, of the man, whose personal integrity and purity no strife of political partisanship ever questioned.

It is my privilege, here and now, to bear my testimony to the man. The man of so true a manhood ; the Christian

man ; who, in that covenanted relation to God the Father, through His Eternal Son, "in whom we have redemption, through His blood, the forgiveness of sins," found in the power of the Cross and the Life of the Spirit that which gave to his own manhood its crown and consummation.

I recall to you the man, the Christian man in his daily life, (that life which, after all, is the measure, in its record, of every man,) with its daily duties, contacts, ministrations. Of it may be truly said *Nulla dies sine linea* (No day without its mark).

Here, where his eyes first opened on the light of earth, and where they closed on it, he made that Christian home and household of which I may not speak, but which is in so many a memory to-day ; here he found that Spiritual Home in his Father's House, to which "his due feet never failed" to bear him for Prayer and Praise and Holy Sacrament.

Amid these fair scenes that spread on every side in such varied forms of beauty he went about in that deep love of Nature which to those who knew him was so marked a feature of his character ; from hence, in that old integrity and simplicity of character and life, which, I think, are not as common among the increasing conventionalities of our civilization as they once were, he went out to do justice, to calm strife, to make peace in all this Commonwealth, and even beyond its limits ; insomuch that "when the ear heard him then it blessed him, and when the eye saw him it gave witness to him."



Ah, my brethren, how much richer is the world, for a life like that while it possesses it. Shall we say, that it is poorer when it loses it? So we think. But God said, "None of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord, or whether we die, we die unto the Lord; whether we live, therefore, or die, we are the Lord's." "Right dear in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."

Among the Poems of one of our chief singers there are lines which were special favorites of him who has gone from us, and which he was never tired of reading, though I know he never dreamed that their story was of him. Let me supplement and fill out with some of them these poor words of mine :

"I saw an aged man upon his bier,  
 His hair was thin and white, and on his brow  
 A record of the cares of many a year;  
 Cares that were ended and forgotten now;  
 And there was sadness round, and faces bowed,  
 And woman's tears fell fast, and children wailed aloud.

"His youth was innocent; his riper age  
 Marked with some act of goodness every day;  
 And, watched by eyes that loved him, calm and sage  
 Faded his late declining years away.  
 Cheerful he gave his being up, and went  
 To share the holy rest that waits a life well spent.

“ That life was happy ; every day he gave  
    Thanks for the fair existence that was his ;  
For a sick fancy made him not her slave,  
    To mock him with her fancied miseries.  
No chronic tortures racked his aged limb,  
For luxury and sloth had nourished none for him.

“ And I am glad that he has lived so long ;  
    And glad that he has gone to his reward ;  
Nor can I deem that Nature did him wrong,  
    Softly to disengage the vital cord.  
For, when his hand grew palsied, and his eye  
Dark with the mists of age, it was his time to die.”

## COMMEMORATIVE SERMON

*Preached by Rev. Timothy Dwight, D.D., of Yale College,  
in the Congregational Church at Litchfield, Sunday  
evening, August 28, 1881.*

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Rev. 22: 14.—“Blessed are they that wash their robes, that they may have the right to come to the tree of life, and may enter in by the gates into the city.”

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The dying pass beyond our sight. We do not know whither they go from our presence, or what is the condition into which they enter. But our thoughts, as by a necessity, attend them as they go, and we cannot help asking what can that new life be which follows this that we live here, and how is the future related to the past. These questions are brought very impressively to our minds when the departing friend whom we look after as he enters into the unseen world is one who had filled out on earth the full measure of his years, and had finished, as far as anything is ever finished here, his honorable life-work. And the questions seem, in such a case, to get somewhat in the way of answer, when we think what the man is at the end, and what his work has been through its course. The man and the work point us

to a blessedness of reward—to a life of larger growth, but a growth in the line of earlier living—to something which may be represented, in a figure at least, by a city in which is planted the tree of life bearing fruit, for the happy soul, of every sort in every month.

Such a man and such a friend, after a long and useful life, has just bidden his final farewell to all who knew and loved him here in this community. The remembrance of him in the minds of all is a kindly one. The word which each one speaks to each respecting him is, that he lived as a true, faithful, honorable, Christian man. What is the life which is now beginning?

I can only speak of our revered friend as I knew him, and as he seemed to me to be when, from time to time, I had the privilege of seeing him. I am well aware that there are many in this place who were his life-long friends, who observed his daily course through the changing progress of years, and who enjoyed a frequent interchange of thought with him on the many subjects which interest our minds. To them anything which one who, like myself, will appear almost as a stranger may say, will be most imperfect and unsatisfying as a description of the man. Yet the tribute even of a stranger has sometimes a value of its own, and it is at least a pleasure to the stranger himself to give it.

Our friend seemed to me, as I have occasionally met him in my summer sojournings here, to be a man who

was earnestly and seriously occupied with the work to which he had consecrated his life. He carried with him, as he walked through the streets, the thoughtfulness and dignity of one whose mind was upon the higher employments of the world. No one, as I think, could see him without feeling at once that he was a laborer in some intellectual field, and that, in that field, he was laboring not for himself alone, but for the common good. We were sure that he was and had been no idler in the world; that he was one to whom life had a meaning and a purpose; that the years gone by had been filled with calm, constant, energetic, useful work, the results of which had so wrought upon his whole being as to affect his very walk and bearing. I am sure that the chance visitor, even, to this pleasant village could not have seen him pass the house where he was resting for a day in his journey without finding this impression fixed upon his mind. And when we who met him thus, once or infrequently, came to ask of those who were familiar with him in the daily intercourse of life, what he really was and whether what we had conjectured was true, we were not surprised to find them testifying to all that we had thought and even more. "He was the first citizen of this town," said one of his oldest acquaintances here to me, on the day following his death. He was a man consecrated to the honorable profession of the law, rising above all the pettinesses and baser things

to which some yield themselves, and giving his mind to the great principles of justice and right and to the high thoughts which the science of law brings before the student devoted to it, was the testimony of his fellow-citizens, at their meeting in his honor before the day of his burial. He lived as one who regarded life as full of meaning, as reaching out into great things and themes, as a sphere for work and growth, as an opportunity for passing over all that the past had gained, unimpaired and improved, to the future, as a time the rapid progress of which only brought a continual and ever more urgent call to earnestness in self-culture and in effort for the world.

Our friend seemed to me to be a man who passed beyond the circle of his professional studies and duties, and who kept his mind open to much that beautifies and adorns the mental life. He was evidently a lover of nature. He had not lived among these hills in vain. He knew the trees and the flowers and the fruits. He interested himself in literature and poetry also,—so his near friends tell us,—and there was a refinement and gentleness about his appearance, which made the stranger disposed to believe this, even before he knew it. The career of a busy lawyer or a judge is not always favorable to the cultivation of these things; but where they are a part of the man's life we find him growing richer and riper as he grows into old age. The soul becomes more

full and more beautiful as the end draws nearer ;—and, when the estimate of the life is made at the last, it is that the life is more perfect than it could otherwise have been.

The man who devotes himself to one thing only may doubtless accomplish more that is visible to himself, and manifest before the minds of others as due to him alone. But the result is, after all, like that of the one who works at a single part of some great machine, and thinks or knows of nothing beyond it. The perfecting of the life, which may be regarded as fitting it for a greater future, is reached by a culture on all sides—subordinately to some one main purpose, indeed, but yet with an appreciation of the true, the beautiful, and the good, wherever they may be found.

Our friend seemed to me, and to all who knew him, to be a true gentleman. As such there was a charming simplicity in his life and manners. He was unaffected, sincere, a kind friend, a hearty sympathizer with those who needed sympathy, a lover of children. We felt, as we met him, that he was—what belongs to the first idea of a gentleman—well-born, and that to what nature had given him by birth he had added, through his long life, the genial influences of a careful culture of the soul. As a gentleman, also, he was unassuming. He had attained high station in the state ; he had received the highest honors which his own community could give him ;

he was respected by every one. But he moved about among men as free from all manifestation of self-esteem or of haughtiness, as if he had been a child, or as if he had known nothing of place or dignity among mankind. He had a dignity, indeed, which was most evident to all, but it was that of simple character—that of a man who was calmly and faithfully moving along that higher plane of life upon which God had placed him. I have seen no one here, or anywhere, who seemed to show less of *self* about him, as uppermost in his thoughts, than he, though he always appeared like a man in the more elevated work and rank in life,—a man to whom others would look up, though he would, in no offensive way, look down upon them. It was for this reason, in large measure, as we cannot doubt, that he was so universally revered here in his later life, and so honored at his death.

Our friend was a lover of the poor and of all who needed a helper. This is the testimony borne to him on every side. The kindly aid and encouragement which he rendered to the younger members of his own profession were gratefully acknowledged at the public meeting held after his death. The generous help and sympathy which he gave to the poor were manifest to every one acquainted with the village life, and were silently yet clearly evidenced beside his open grave. As I stood listening to the words of the burial-service on that beautiful afternoon, I found



myself surrounded by men and women of another nationality, and of another church than our own or his, who, like myself, had accompanied the members of his family and his profession to see him laid in his last resting-place. He certainly was no liver for himself. He was by his circumstances and by his success made a man of great prominence in all this region where his life was passed. But with a true recognition of the duties of his station and the claims of his fellow-men, he lived with his thoughts always upon the welfare of those less favored than himself, among whom his lot was cast; and, indeed, upon the welfare of the entire community which surrounded him, whatever might be the rank or the resources of those who belonged within its limits. The stranger, looking upon his face for the first time, saw at once the kindness of heart which found expression there; and, so soon as he made inquiry of those who were not strangers, he learned that the face but honestly reflected what was in the heart, and that, like the Divine Master, the good man "went about," according to the measure of his opportunity, "doing good."

Our friend was a Christian disciple and believer. The character shows itself not only in the life but in the outward appearance. We have seen this fact illustrated in what we have already said. But oftentimes it is true, even in a remarkable degree, with reference to the religious life. The house in which the spirit whose union with Christ transforms

it gradually into Christ's image dwells, seems to become glorified with somewhat of the purity and glory of its inmate. The man who has lived for fifty years in communion with his Divine Friend, does not need to speak of his Christian feeling or principle to make others know of their existence. His very presence testifies to what he is. Who that simply saw our friend pass from his dwelling to his office, or go on some daily errand along the street, could fail to feel that there was a disciple of the Lord Jesus? It was not an earthly teaching, but a heavenly, that had wrought upon his life.

In thinking of him since his death, I have been especially impressed with two thoughts. The first is, how great a power for good one such man becomes in the community where he lives. There is not a person within the limits of this town, I suppose—perhaps not a member of his own profession in the state, who has ever known him—who has not been sure, beyond all doubting, that Judge Seymour was a man of real goodness. There are none who, if they have observed his life at all, have not perceived that his character had become what it was by reason of his confidence in and obedience to the Christian teaching. He became to all, therefore, a testimony to the truth of Christianity, and a testimony which went deeper than all opposing arguments and objections, deeper than all doubts and denials. Such a life—lived in the sight and presence of the old and young for many years—cannot be resisted. It is a fact, and the future for some men within the circle of its influence, if not

indeed for all, will bear witness of its power for Christianity. And why should it not be so? Christianity is a life more than it is a doctrine; it is the divine energy working in the individual soul, and, when it has accomplished its own result there, the ennobled life of that soul becomes an eternal, vital reality,—the best of all evidence.

The second thought which I have had is this—how the differences between Christians sink into insignificance at the end of life, as compared with the one, common, uniting principle which binds them all together. This revered friend whom we remember now, worshiped in another church and after another form than ours. He may have viewed the Christian life, perhaps, somewhat differently, in some of its minor points, from ourselves. But who thought of this, on the day of his departure to the other life? He was a loving disciple of Jesus, and had gone away from our sight at His call. We rejoiced in our confidence that this was true of him; everything else seemed little and unworthy of a thought. And I cannot but believe that the legitimate influence of such a life as his, whose dignity and worth all acknowledge is to bring the churches of all names into unity, and to join their energies against the common enemy alone. You and I, my friend, cannot think just alike. Why contend with and misunderstand each other on the lesser and unessential things, when we are both trying to love the same blessed Lord?

This Christian life of our friend was, according to the old reading of our text, "a doing of His commandments" to whose service he had long since consecrated himself. It was in its beginning and its progress, as the new reading gives the thought, "a washing of the robes" in the blood of that Divine Friend, whose death opened for him the way to all righteousness. He sought the better life through Christ. However other men may have tried to obtain goodness, he acquired his in this way alone. The end which he earnestly looked for as the result of his Christian living, of his efforts and struggles after righteousness, was the right to come to the tree of life by entering the gates of the heavenly city. The joy of the distant future, in the prospect of which he encouraged his soul in his journey through the world, was symbolized to his thought by the twelve manner of fruits which should be continually offering themselves to his enjoyment—fruits of love and goodness and all that fills the mind with the thought of heaven.

Such, in some of its more striking aspects, were the life and character of the friend of whom we are speaking to each other, as he appeared even to the comparative stranger visiting this place of his home. Such was the man and such was his work. The question returns upon us, what is the life which is now beginning?

It must be—we say to ourselves—a life which answers, in some degree, to the one that is ended. A man who lived here as he did must, as we cannot help believing,

find some sphere of *intellectual working* in that new state to which he has gone. It will not be an idle listless living, that which now opens before him, but one in which all the cultivation of his powers here will find its purpose and meaning fully realized. That he will be doing anything which shall resemble what he has been doing, or thinking of subjects like those which used to occupy his mind, may be improbable. But he can scarcely be changed in the very nature and energy of his being. In *some* way, life must be an educating time for eternity; and though the *man* moves far beyond the level of his *childhood's* thought, he is not a new creature—he has only grown in his powers so that he can grapple with more intricate problems and grasp the fullness of higher themes. The great principles of right and justice even, which we may easily believe to have a larger sweep than the narrow circle of this world's life, may be the study of the future for a mind trained as his has been.

Is it not at least, my friends, a more reasonable view, as well as one more in accordance with all analogies, to look upon the heavenly life as thus a gradual growing in knowledge from the starting-point of what is finished here, than to suppose that we rise into the perfection of knowing everything *at once*, with no after-growth or development? But, however the truth respecting this may be, heaven must, at least, be a place of knowing and thinking, of reaching out towards the boundless riches

of what God has to reveal to us, and so of wonderful satisfaction to one who has been filled with a love of truth in this imperfect world.

I think the future life must also bring to all of us, and surely to one whose mind has begun here to open itself widely, an understanding of the glory and beauty of knowledge in all lines. The limitations of the present world force almost all of us to remain within narrow boundaries. We cannot even cultivate within ourselves the knowledge of many things. But the liberty which belongs to the glorified state of the children of God must be attended with a removal of these limitations, and we must enter into a larger, freer life. It is certainly a delightful thought, which may well comfort us in our sorrow over the departure of our dying friends, that they are to begin such a larger life;—that not one thing but many things; not a little knowing, but, in the comparison with this world, all knowing; not the sense of worth or beauty or good here and there, but *everywhere*, are to be made their possession as their new life moves onward. The tree is to bear its twelve manner of fruits. It is to yield its fruit every month. They are to have the right always to come to it. They have entered by the gates into the city.

The life of the future, I cannot but think, must give a full opportunity for the working of the gentler and kindlier virtues of the soul. It must be so, for it is

these virtues which Christianity has especially introduced into the world and rendered honorable in the sight of men. Certainly that cannot fail when life's boundary is passed, which the Christian teaching has been carefully and constantly developing in the soul until it reaches life's boundary. The man who did good unto all men, according to the Apostle's injunction, and especially to those of the household of faith, cannot leave his kindness, and large-heartedness, and helpfulness, and friendliness behind him in this world because there is no sphere for their exercise in the kingdom of heaven.

We can know little of the coming life indeed, until we reach it. But will it not be strange beyond measure if we cannot do each other any friendly service there; if those who have been there for a long period and have learned a great deal cannot help those who are just beginning. The law of mutual service, we believe, must be the most wide extending law of the divine kingdom. It is because they had learned such loving and constant obedience to this law, here in this lower world, that we have confidence in the readiness of our friends for Heaven, when they leave us.

But whatever else may be uncertain or in the region of conjecture, one thing is certain. The man who was a Christian believer here will be a Christian disciple there. And what is it to be a Christian disciple, except to be filled with love to God and Christ, and to be doing all things

in this atmosphere of love. It is this which gives us strong hope and confidence, though, in all other things, the future life has been left even by the divine revelation in so much darkness. It is not yet made manifest what we shall be, says the Apostle, but we know that if he shall be manifested, we shall be like him; for we shall see him even as he is. This is the promise and assurance which is given to us. The other life is to be for each one of the disciples an intimate union with Christ,—such a union that the life of the Divine Friend will flow into and infuse the disciple's life, and will thus make the disciple to see and know him as he is. With the infinite power of a divine friendship each life will be transformed, in its own individuality and after its own way, more and more perfectly into the divine likeness. And so, in some manner, (what matters it, whether we know to-day precisely how or not) we shall grow into the fullness of life—every beginning of virtue which we have attained here reaching its complete perfection—every resemblance to Christ which these years are giving us coming to the grandeur of his glorious likeness, because we shall see him even as he is.

The venerated friend, whose life so lately ended we call to mind this evening, has entered, after what seemed to us a long career, upon that future uncertain and yet certain state; uncertain in the minute details of its life, but certain in what includes all promise and all good. It is pleasant to think that, in his case, the course here was finished,



that, even beyond the ordinary limit of human living, he had carried on his work with vigor to the end. We cannot call any Christian life, indeed, imperfect, when God's will brings it to its termination. But, to our human thought, there is a certain glorious perfectness when the course here has been rounded out into its fullness, and the man, ripe in years as well as character, passes from the things which we call seen to those which we call unseen, from the things which are temporary and fleeting to the things that are eternal. Every such completed Christian career leaves behind it a blessing for memory to keep. The one now ended leaves such a blessing to the inhabitants of this ancient New England town, which they may well remember in future years, and the blessing passes over in its measure, also, to the stranger who is within their gates.

Indeed, where can the blessing of such a life end? We know where influence begins, and sometimes, though by no means always, how it begins. The unconscious influence of each individual life eludes the notice even of the one who sends it forth. But whither does it go? Not to you or to me only, but, after it has done its work for us, it goes forth, you and I often cannot tell when or where, to others; and the men who live and work in a later generation, or at the remotest boundaries of the world, may have the inspiration of their working from a source of whose existence they never know. Here is the value of noble living—its results go into the Divine keeping and the

measure of them can only be revealed when, in the distant eternity, all things become known. We can gladly commit the future of such a life to God when it is finished here, in all confidence that it will be lived in the city of His love, and will know of the fruits of the tree of life.

It is now nearly twenty-five years since the accidents of life brought me into daily union in a foreign land with three young friends who, like myself, were full of pleasant thoughts and hopes for the future. One of them is now the minister in holy things to the congregation, which, though with another form of service and owing allegiance to another ecclesiastical authority, meets for worship from Sabbath to Sabbath in the Church of Christ nearest to the one in which we are assembled to-night. To my association with this friend at that time, I naturally owed my first introduction, years afterward, to his father—the honored Christian man of whom I have spoken—and his first kindly recognition of me. As a memorial of the old friendship for the son, and a testimony to one whom he reveres more than we do only because he knew him more perfectly in the innermost circle of his life, I lay these few simple words, as if a wreath upon his father's grave.

[From the "Litchfield Enquirer" of August 18, 1881.]

## HON. ORIGEN S. SEYMOUR.

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After a long and at times painful illness, Judge ORIGEN S. SEYMOUR died at his residence in this village at 1 A. M., on Friday last, the 12th of August. Although he seemed to have recovered from the severe illness of last winter, there had developed a stoppage of the duct leading from the gall-bladder to the bowels, which, after months of decline, has at last proved fatal.

Judge SEYMOUR was of an old Litchfield family, of which Gov. Horatio Seymour of New York, Senator Horatio Seymour of Vermont, and many other noted public men of the name, were offshoots. His grandfather, Major Moses Seymour, bore a distinguished part in the Revolutionary war, and his father, Ozias Seymour, was for many years sheriff of the county. Judge SEYMOUR was born Feb. 9, 1804, and graduated from Yale College in 1824. Though embarrassed by weakness of the eyes to such a degree that he was compelled much of the time to depend on having his lessons read to him by others, he stood well in college, and was admitted to the bar of this county in 1826. From that time till 1855 he

was engaged in the practice of law. He early formed a partnership with the Hon. Geo. C. Woodruff, and rose to a leading position in the very able bar then practicing in this county. A Democrat in politics, he frequently represented the town in the Legislature, and was elected Speaker of the House in 1850. The next year he went to Congress, where he remained two terms. He was one of the small number of Anti-Nebraska Democrats whose opposition nearly defeated the Kansas-Nebraska Bill. In the heated contest which followed, and which effected a complete political revolution in Connecticut and most of the other Northern states, Judge Seymour did not join the new Free-soilers, but remained through life a member, though a liberal member, of the Democratic party.

In 1855, on the reorganization of courts effected by the abolition of the old county courts, four new superior court judges were appointed. Two of these, Messrs. Park and Butler, were of the majority parties (American and Republican); two, Messrs. Seymour and Waldo, of the Democratic party, then in the minority. The abolition of the county courts, as it proved, was a mistake, and their place has since been partially filled by the establishment of Common Pleas, District, and other subordinate tribunals. Still, the hard work done by Judge Seymour, and others of the newly-appointed judges, did much for a time to hide the inadequacy of the judicial force. A more industrious, courteous, intelligent trier of

causes has never been seen on our bench than Judge SEYMOUR; and, indeed, the amount of work accomplished by the judges of the reorganized Superior Court would seem hardly credible in these easier-going judicial times.

Judge SEYMOUR's eight-years' term expired in 1863, and it so happened that the Peace Democracy, headed by Thomas H. Seymour, had just been barely beaten in the bitterest political contest seen in Connecticut since the adoption of the Constitution. Though War Democrats, Judges SEYMOUR and Waldo had both voted with their party that spring; a doubt was raised whether, if reappointed, they might not interfere with the national draft, then first ordered by writs of habeas corpus; and, finally, the Legislature refused to re-elect either of the Democratic judges. Judge SEYMOUR at once resumed practice at the bar, going into partnership with his son, Edward W. Seymour, then a leading lawyer in this place.

In 1864-5 he was nominated for Governor by his party, but the favorable turn of the war, and the passage of a constitutional amendment allowing soldiers to vote in the army, gave the Republican candidate a large majority, both years. He continued in active legal practice till 1870, when a Republican Legislature appointed him and ex-Senator Foster Judges of the Supreme Court of Errors. In 1873 he succeeded Judge Butler, his old colleague on the Superior bench of 1855, as Chief Judge of the Supreme Court, retiring, from the constitutional limitation of age, in 1874.

Since his retirement from the bench, Judge SEYMOUR has never resumed practice at the bar, though much employed as committee and arbitrator in the trial of causes. Indeed, we are inclined to think that the most important public work of his life has been done since his retirement from the bench. In 1877 he was chairman of the commission which exposed the irregularities of the Charter Oak Insurance Company. Above all, in 1878 he was chairman of the commission which prepared our new code, the most valuable measure of law-reform ever introduced in this state. How largely the influence of his name contributed to its adoption, and how largely his private advice and his public lectures at the Yale Law School have contributed to the easy working of the new system, is matter of general notoriety. In 1876 he was chairman of the commission whose labors have finally settled the long-disputed boundary between this State and New York, and have given Connecticut the exclusive jurisdiction of the oyster-fisheries lying off our southern coast. It is a curious fact, that, though a life-long Democrat, and though, during the past quarter of a century, he has held positions of the highest trust, they have been given him in every instance by his political opponents. Better proof could hardly be afforded that they came to him unsought.

In the Episcopal Church, of which he has long been a member, Judge SEYMOUR has also held the highest

positions open to laymen. For years he has invariably represented St. Michael's Parish as delegate to the conventions of the diocese; and, since 1868, he has represented the laymen of the diocese in every national triennial convention of that church. He has always been extremely liberal in his gifts for local and other church objects.

The important judicial and quasi-judicial positions repeatedly given Judge SEYMOUR by Republican legislatures are sufficient evidence of the very high estimation in which his professional ability has been held throughout the State. As a judge he ranked among the very highest, working incessantly and accomplishing much, with but little of the friction that wastes so much time in court with irritable or incompetent judges. His judicial opinions are written in clear, well-expressed English, free from the verbiage, fine writing, and extremes of view, that often mar the judicial work of great advocates made judges late in life. At the bar he was a candid but most able, shrewd, and dangerous opponent, particularly when, clothing all the wit and keenness of the accomplished advocate in the homely garb of the jurymen's own dialect, he stole, as it were, into the jury-box, and talked the case over with them, showing none of the ordinary lawyer's bias, but bringing all the weight of his own personal convictions and of his own personal character to bear in favor of his client. At times, however, he would rise to powerful declamation, arguing with an eloquence the more effective in that he used a remarkable gift so sparingly.

It is impossible as yet to fully appreciate the loss Litchfield sustains in the death of Judge SEYMOUR. He was a man whose influence has been the greater because few have felt it directly. His position, his eminent professional career, and above all his life and character, were such that any authority he might have exercised among us would scarcely have seemed an assumption; yet no man has assumed less. He was most singular in that no superiority of position, power, or intelligence ever tempted him to master other men's opinions. He was plain in all his ways, not from affectation, but from genuine simplicity of character. Yet with all this simplicity and all this absence of self-assertion, there was a shrewdness, a keen insight flashing clear to the heart of men and things. Indeed, of all men we have ever known, he was most like Abraham Lincoln as the People's President has gone into history: strong, simple, quarreling with no man; feeling the republican equality of all men as few in authority have ever felt it.

The unpretentious kindness and charity of Judge SEYMOUR's long life among us, his sincere religious convictions, and his consistent religious practice, are the fitting complement of his public career. No life ever more noiselessly attracted universal regard, more thoroughly silenced even the voice of envy, or won more of love by love, than his. So long has he been present with us, that as yet we can scarcely see how uncommon a thing a life



so perfect, so symmetrical, really is. Time and the empty place no one else can fill will too soon and too surely give us the true measure of our loss.

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## FUNERAL OBSERVANCES.

On the announcement of Judge SEYMOUR's death on Thursday last, the village flag was placed at half-mast, with black streamers, and the Court-House front was heavily draped in mourning. A citizen's meeting was called at the Town Room on Saturday afternoon, the bells of the village being tolled from 2 until 2.30 P. M.

The citizens' meeting was called to order by J. Deming Perkins, Esq. Ex-Gov. Andrews was appointed Chairman, and Mr. Perkins, Secretary. Prayer was offered by Prof. Hoppin, of Yale College. Gov. Andrews then made a few appropriate remarks in eulogy of the deceased. Henry B. Graves, Esq., offered the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, this community has met with a great bereavement in the death of Ex-Chief Justice SEYMOUR, our eminent and honored fellow citizen and friend, and it is proper and fitting that his townsmen should exhibit their appreciation of his many virtues, therefore

*Resolved*, That in the death of Judge SEYMOUR, the state at large, and especially this immediate vicinity, is called

upon to mourn the loss of a valued counselor, eminent jurist, a patriotic statesman, and a Christian gentleman.

That we hereby tender our sorrowing sympathies to the relatives of the deceased in their grief over this severe affliction.

That the life of Judge SEYMOUR, in its pure, simple, and spotless character, offers to the youth of this community a bright and honored example well worthy of all imitation.

That notwithstanding the deceased was honored with prominent official stations, the duties of which he discharged with distinguished ability, yet his real worth could only be estimated by his private character, as a citizen, a Christian, and a neighbor.

That we request the business men of the village to close their respective places of business from two until three o'clock on Monday afternoon next, that all may have an opportunity to pay their respects at the burial of our honored dead.

After reading the resolutions, Mr. Graves made a short address in which he feelingly referred to the merits and the character of the deceased.

Capt. Alvah Stone also spoke on the resolutions as a representative of the workingmen of this community.

Hon. Charles Adams referred to the early life of the deceased, he being the only person present who was a boy with our late fellow townsman.

He was followed with brief remarks by D. C. Kilbourn, Esq., and then the resolutions were unanimously passed, and the meeting adjourned.

On the same day the following action was taken by the Vestry of St. Michael's Church:

At a meeting of the Vestry of St. Michael's Church, held August 13th, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, it has pleased Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, to call to rest from his sphere of great usefulness our beloved friend and neighbor, Judge ORIGEN STORRS SEYMOUR,

*Resolved*, That we, his associates in the Vestry of St. Michael's Church, deeply deplore his death; that we shall greatly miss his wise counsel in this assembly; but the example of his earnest, blameless Christian life will long live among us as a cherished memory; that we desire to tender to his bereaved family our most heartfelt sympathy in their time of trial.

J. WOLCOTT WHEELER, Clerk.

The funeral was attended from the Episcopal Church on Monday, at 2 P. M. Bishop Williams officiated, assisted by Rev. G. M. Wilkins, of Newtown; Rev. Wm. R. Peck, of Marbledale; Rev. Dr. Payne, of Schenectady, N. Y.;

Rev. Mr. Phelps, of Onoro, Fla. ; Rev. E. W. Maxcy, of Bridgeport ; and Rev. E. E. Beardsley, D.D., of New Haven.

The pall-bearers were F. Ratchford Starr, Wm. F. Baldwin, H. R. Coit, Charles Adams, J. Deming Perkins, and H. O. Morse.

Among the distinguished gentlemen from abroad were Ex-Gov. Ingersoll, of New Haven ; Ex-Gov. Holley, of Lakeville ; Ex-Judge Waldo, of Hartford ; Judge Granger, of the Supreme Court, and Judges Hitchcock and Culver, of the Superior Court ; Hon. Lynde Harrison, of Guilford ; Judge Luzon B. Morris, of New Haven ; Hon. Roger Averill and Hon. Lyman D. Brewster and Messrs. David B. Booth and Wm. L. Taylor, of Danbury ; Hon. Robbins Battell and Dr. W. W. Welch, of Norfolk ; J. W. Webster, Esq., and Hon. Stephen W. Kellogg, of Waterbury ; Judge McManus, of Hartford ; Hon. L. W. Coe, of Torrington ; Hon. E. M. Chapin, of New Hartford ; State's Attorney Olmsted, of Fairfield County ; Hon. Orrin Benedict, of Bethel, and many others. The Litchfield County Bar were nearly all present. Yale College was represented by Professors James M. Hoppin, Timothy Dwight, and Elias Loomis. About eight hundred people were gathered at the Church. The burial service of the Episcopal Church was read, a hymn was sung, and the Bishop delivered a short and beautiful tribute to the memory of the deceased as a man and a Christian. The remains were followed to the grave by a large concourse of people.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE LITCHFIELD COUNTY BAR.

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At a recent meeting of the Bar of this county, Messrs. Abijah Catlin, Hiram Goodwin, Donald J. Warner, Wm. Cothren, and Chas. B. Andrews, were appointed a committee to prepare a testimonial of the esteem in which ex-Judge SEYMOUR was held by his brethren of the Bar, to be placed on the records of the court.

The testimonial prepared by the committee was adopted at a meeting of the Bar held on the 14th inst., and ex-Gov. Andrews was appointed to present them to the court on Wednesday of last week. At the time appointed Gov. Andrews rose and addressed the court as follows:

*May it Please the Court:*

A great sorrow has fallen on the Bar. Only a short time ago he, who by age, by service, and fame had long been our leader, passed from our midst forever.

My brethren have assigned to me the honorable duty of presenting to the court a testimonial of their respect for the deceased and their grief at his loss, and of asking that it be spread on the records.

[Governor Andrews here requested the Clerk of the Court to read the following testimonial voted by the Bar:]

“ORIGEN S. SEYMOUR, for more than fifty years a loved and honored member of the bar of Litchfield County, departed this life at his residence in Litchfield, on Friday, the 12th day of August last, having completed more than half of the seventy-eighth year of his age. His brethren of the Bar in this county desire to place on record a testimonial of their high esteem for the deceased, also of their sense of personal bereavement and of the loss which the Bar and the State has suffered by his death. We recognize that he was the foremost citizen of the State; that he was easily its leading lawyer; that for a long time he was a venerated magistrate and that he attained to the highest judicial position known to our laws.

“At the Bar and on the bench he was quiet, courteous, modest, dignified, and firm—qualities which won, or if there were need commanded, respect.

“As an associate and friend he exhibited the warmest affection and the most generous sympathy.

“In the cause of jurisprudence he rendered eminent service, he was always faithful to duty, he had great pride in the profession, and imparted luster and dignity to it.

“Remembering these things, his brethren of the Bar to day render their gratified tribute to his memory. And we respectfully ask that it may be entered upon the records of the court.”

Judge SEYMOUR died on the morning of the 12th day of August last, at about the hour of one o'clock. His death was not unexpected, yet as the day dawned and his fellow citizens came to know that he was no more, a solemn and profound grief settled upon the whole community. The court-house in which so large a part of his life had been spent was appropriately draped. His professional brethren from this county and from other parts of the State attended his funeral. And as we came back from his grave—the solemn words of the burial service still lingering in our ears—one sentiment seemed to pervade us all: that the good man whose death we so much deplored had not wholly died; that he still lived in our remembrance of his warm and steady friendships, and of his social virtues, in those legal judgments, exhibiting his vast attainments in the law, which, among others, have given to the Connecticut Reports the character of a commanding authority, in those labors by which the avenues where all men are compelled to seek justice have been, in some measure, freed from their clogs and pitfalls. In these things he still lives, and in these things not only we but succeeding generations shall hold speech with him. *Vivit enim, vivetque semper; atque etiam latius in memoria hominum et sermone versabitur, postquam ab oculis recessit.*

ORIGEN STORRS SEYMOUR was born at Litchfield on the 9th day of February, 1804. His father was Ozias Seymouir,

who was a long time Sheriff of the county. His grandfather was Major Moses Seymour, who, with his brother Samuel, came from Hartford to Litchfield about the year 1760. Moses Seymour was a captain in the Revolutionary army. He had charge of several prisoners of war sent to Litchfield for safe custody. One of them was David Matthews, the royalist Mayor of New York city.

His mother was Salima Storrs, daughter of Daniel Storrs, of Mansfield, Conn.

He was fitted for College at home, attending school to his uncle, the Rev. Truman Marsh, and afterwards to John P. Brace. A companion of his boyhood who still lives tells me that STORRS SEYMOUR was always a discreet boy, and although joining with zest in all the sports and games of boys, he rarely did anything rash or thoughtless. He was a safe boy, one to whom other boys came to look for aid and guidance. Many times the boy is father of the man.

He was graduated at Yale College in 1824. The class numbered 68, among whom was the late E. A. Bulkeley, of Hartford, Linus Child, James Reeve Gould, Prof. Griswold of the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons, Willis Hall, a very brilliant lawyer, who died early, Prof. Holland, of Trinity College, Elias Warner Leavenworth, a member of Congress from New York, Prof. Pinneo, of Marietta College, Ohio, and Benjamin D. Silliman.

Returning from college he studied law at the Litchfield Law School, and was admitted to practice at the Sep-



tember term of the County Court in 1826. At that time the Bar of Litchfield County was an exceptionally strong one. Phineas Miner, Seth P. Beers, Asa Bacon, Jabez W. Huntington, Truman Smith and David C. Sanford, were at Litchfield; Noah B. Benedict was at Woodbury; Samuel Church was at Salisbury; Leman Church and Wm. M. Burrall were at Canaan; Ansel Sterling and Cyrus Swan at Sharon; Wm. G. Williams and Roger Mills at New Hartford; David S. Boardman and Perry Smith at New Milford; and there were others. Coming into daily contact with such men as these, to win a practice he was compelled to give the closest attention to his duties, and he must have been careless indeed not to have learned something from the constant displays of that power which he had so much occasion to see and feel. But besides this he was ambitious and industrious.

The Law School had given Litchfield great reputation, and it had long been a favorite resort for the acquisition of that science. The genius which presides over such studies was supposed to dwell on this hill. Judge Gould ceased to give instruction in 1832. From that time Mr. SEYMOUR received pupils into his office, instructing them by familiar talks and recitations, rather than by the formal method of lectures. He had many students till as late as 1850.

He was County Clerk from 1836 to 1844.

He represented his town in the State Legislature in 1842 and 1843, and again in 1849 and 1850. The latter

year he was Speaker. The last public position he ever held was a seat in the Legislature at its session of 1881, elected by the substantially unanimous vote of his townsmen.

He was chosen to the 32d Congress in April, 1851, and served on the Committee on Claims. He was re-elected in 1853 to the 33d Congress, and served on the Judiciary Committee. In Congress he was a laborious rather than a talking member. During his entire four years there is hardly anything that can be called a set speech. In 1854 he made a decided protest in opposition to the Kansas-Nebraska Bill—which, however, became a law.

Upon the re-organization of the Superior Court of the State in 1855, he was elected a Judge of that Court for the term of eight years—together with Thomas B. Butler, Loren P. Waldo, and John D. Park. At the end of this term of service, not being re-elected, he resumed practice at his former office and continued actively engaged till 1870, when he was chosen Associate-Judge of the Supreme Court of Errors.

In 1873 he was elected Chief-Justice, which position he held till he reached the constitutional limit of age.

Since completing his 70th year, Judge SEYMOUR has served many times as Committee, and also upon Judicial and Legislative Commissions. The most prominent, perhaps, were the Commission to adjust the boundary-line

between this State and New York, and the one to simplify the system of civil procedure in this State.

This is the record of an exceedingly active, busy, and useful life. How brief it seems—and yet how wide it reaches. Justice is the soft but enduring band which holds men together in organized society. It is the great interest of men on earth, and whoever ministers at her altar, or contributes anything to make the foundations of her temple more firm or to raise its dome nearer to the skies, joins his name and fame to that which must be as enduring as the frame of human society. Throughout a long life our deceased friend wrought with zeal and fidelity in this work.

Those of us who practiced before Judge SEYMOUR while he was on the bench, know how well-fitted he was for that high position. In the first place he was eminently learned—learned in the books—and his memory was wonderfully stored with that learning which comes from experience. In his long practice at the bar and service on the bench, nothing had escaped him. No case was so complicated nor was any difficulty so great but somewhere in his memory there was a precedent or a rule to solve it. And then he knew how to use his learning. This is a great gift. He had that many-sided faculty which enabled him to adapt means to ends, to compare, modify, adjust, and reconcile the testimony of witnesses, and, amid a multitude of conflicting and contradictory statements, to

find where the truth lay. He was a man of the strictest integrity, and what is more, he possessed the perfect confidence of the community. He received every one of his judicial appointments from his political opponents. It is not enough for a judge to be honest. No one can come up to the measure of a good judge unless he is believed to be such. It is this belief which gives power to the sword he bears.

And then he had great patience, and kindness of heart, and charity for the weaknesses of men. Moreover he was a steady believer in liberty, as defined by the first John Winthrop, the privilege "to do that only which is good, and just, and honest." In the history of all the great men who have adorned the Bench in our State I can hardly name one who possessed more useful faculties for that high magistracy or possessed them in larger degree than Judge SEYMOUR. Looking back over his life from the last days of his years, how nearly he might have recalled to his memory such testimonies as these, of a wise and good Judge :

The young men saw me and hid themselves; and the aged arose and stood up,

The princes refrained talking and laid their hand on their mouth,

The nobles held their peace and their tongue cleaved to the roof of their mouth,

When the ear heard me then it blessed me; and when the eye saw me it gave witness to me,

Because I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that  
had none to help him.

The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me; and I caused  
the widow's heart to sing for joy.

I put on righteousness and it clothed me; my judgment was as a robe  
and a diadem.

I was eyes to the blind and feet was I to the lame.

I was a father to the poor and the cause which I knew not I searched  
out,

And I brake the jaws of the wicked and plucked the spoil out of his  
teeth.

My glory was fresh in me, and my bow was renewed in my hand.

Unto me men gave ear, and waited and kept silence at my counsel.

After my words they spake not again, and my speech dropped upon  
them.

With judges such as this it matters little who controls the other departments of government. "Let us repose, secure, under the shade of a learned, impartial, and trusted magistracy, and we need no more."

Judge SEYMOUR always acted with the Democratic party. He was an hereditary believer in the people. His father and grandfather held with Jefferson against the ideas of Hamilton. They hated the alien and sedition laws. They belonged to the Toleration party. Brought up under such influences the son could be nothing else than a Democrat. I do not think that he was ever very much of a partisan, or that he enjoyed the tumults of party strife. And perhaps there was something in the management of political parties in these later days which did not quite meet

his approval. At the best, parties are but the means to an end. They sometimes waver or even change front. But the good citizen, holding fast to the fundamental principles in accordance with which he thinks the government ought to be administered, acts with that party which, on the whole, most nearly conforms to his views.

A few days after his funeral, the Litchfield Enquirer closed a very appreciative article on Judge SEYMOUR in these words: "The unpretentious kindness and charity of Judge SEYMOUR's long life among us, his sincere religious convictions and his consistent religious practice, are the fitting complement of his public career. No life ever more noiselessly attracted universal regard, more thoroughly silenced even the voice of envy, or won more love by love, than his. So long has he been present with us, that, as yet, we can scarcely see how uncommon a thing a life so perfect, so symmetrical, really is. Time and the empty space no one else can fill will too soon and too surely give us the true measure of our loss." These words, addressed to his neighbors and near friends, express better than I can do otherwise what I would address to his surviving fellows of the profession.

Judge SEYMOUR was married in 1830 to Lucy M., daughter of Morris Woodruff. She still survives. All his life he was a resident of Litchfield, and here he died in old age. He died, not from a violent stroke by the hand of death, but rather by the gradual giving way of his

vital powers. Through life he had enjoyed remarkable health. He was much in the open air and took competent exercise. He never ran after extreme theories of life or practice, but controlled his conduct and habits by old fashioned rules of prudence and moderation—patterning, perhaps, after the advice of the archangel to our great first parent :

. . . . . “Observe  
 The rule of, not too much, by temperance taught,  
 In what thou eat'st and drink'st; seeking from thence  
 Due nourishment, not gluttonous delight;  
 Till many years over thy head return.  
 So mayst thou live; till, like ripe fruit, thou drop  
 Into thy mother's lap; or be with ease  
 Gathered, not harshly plucked; for death mature.”

[Judge Loomis then spoke as follows:]

Before ordering to be recorded on the records of this Court the resolutions presented by the Bar of this County relative to the late Judge SEYMOUR, my heart prompts me to add a few words of tribute—poor and inadequate as they may be to do justice to his memory.

I well and gratefully remember the lasting impression made by his kindness seventeen years ago, when, for the first time, a young and inexperienced judge, I came to preside over this court, oppressed with despondent feelings and distrustful of my own qualifications for this high office. On that occasion his kind and friendly greeting and

his generous words of commendation and encouragement greatly cheered me in my work, and will never be forgotten by me. From that day until the day of his death it was my high privilege to enjoy his personal friendship and to be the recipient of his kindness, encouragement, and hospitality.

With the sentiments contained in the resolutions now before the court, and with all the words of eulogy here uttered in regard to the personal, professional, and official character of Judge SEYMOUR, I fully concur. Glowing tributes have been elsewhere given, indeed they seem to have come spontaneously from every part of our State, all in perfect accord. And not only does the profession to which he belonged and of which he was the head and most radiant example, award him the high praise, but he shared also the confidence, affection, and reverence of the people generally. And yet I know of no man who has taken less pains to court public favor by using the common artifices that are supposed to gain it. This strong attachment on the part of the people for him is however explainable on the principle that he who sincerely shows himself friendly will have friends.

Judge SEYMOUR was eminently and proverbially kind to all—high or low, rich or poor. His every act, and look, and word, gave evidence of this. It was the recognition of this trait that called forth the facetious and perhaps rather extravagant remark I once heard from a lawyer in



this state, to the effect that if Judge SEYMOUR decided a case against a man, the latter always thought he had won the case!

Such a lively tenderness for the feelings of others I have rarely, if ever, witnessed in any man. He was sincerely friendly, generous, and self-sacrificing, and thoroughly good, through and through. But while he had warm attachments, yet, as a judge, we can say of him that his friendships never perverted his judgments. No man's friendship availed him with the court, and no man's displeasure prejudiced his cause. On the bench he presided with dignity, utterly devoid of ostentation or display. His legal opinions, while a member of the supreme court, are celebrated for their point, simplicity, and common sense, as well as for a clear comprehension of all the law and facts connected with or bearing upon the case.

In every relation which he sustained, whether private, professional, or official, I would characterize him as of spotless purity of life and motive, of grave, yet kind and gentle manners, of unwearied patience of application, of clear, vigorous, and healthy understanding, and of a passionless judgment which sought truth for its own sake.

Another thing not yet mentioned always excited my admiration. His heart and sympathies, always fresh and enthusiastic, were finely attuned in harmony with all that is beautiful or grand in the realm of nature. In walking or riding with him, I have often noticed how his emotions

would kindle and glow as he drank in the glories of some vast landscape. And, at the same time, with all the poetic fervor and appreciation of a Burns, he would notice and expatiate on the beauty of some humble wayside flower.

But I refrain from any further attempt to describe the many merits of the deceased. Surely it is not necessary before these his professional associates and neighbors, in this, his native town, to whose historic scroll, luminous before with a constellation of great and illustrious men, his name and memory will add a new and never-fading star.

In conclusion, I wish to say this to the members of the Litchfield County Bar. You have a rich legacy in his precious memory. This lofty ideal of personal and professional character will ever be with you, beckoning you onward and upward. All may not reach such eminence and such honor; but all, inspired by his illustrious example, may honor their high calling and profession. What will endure longest and glow the brightest in the memory of the deceased, is not his extensive legal attainments, nor his high intellectual abilities, but rather his spotless justice, virtue, and goodness. All history shows that virtue is the true immortalizer. The truly good are the truly great. A lawyer is the servant of his fellow men for the attainment of justice. If there is lowliness in the idea of being a servant, what loftiness in the object! If the lawyer is the servant of earth, at the same time he may also be the minister of heaven.

A week ago last Monday, I attended the funeral of Judge Waldo, a life-long friend and intimate associate of Judge SEYMOUR. In culture, intellect, and legal attainments, they were not so much alike, but were so in many features of personal character. It may well be said of them, "They were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in death they were not divided." Both these noble patriarchs of the legal profession have left shining examples which I would commend to the young men of this bar, who yearn for honor and professional reward.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE HARTFORD COUNTY BAR.

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A meeting of the Hartford County Bar was held this (Friday) morning in the superior court room, to take appropriate action upon the death of the late Judge **ORIGEN S. SEYMOUR**, of Litchfield.

The Hon. R. D. Hubbard presided, and S. O. Prentice was clerk. There were present the Hon. Judge Waldo, the Hon. Henry C. Robinson, Judge Adams, Judge McManus, the Hon. John R. Buck, Roger Welles, E. H. Hyde, Henry E. Burton, Harrison B. Freeman, William R. Cone, H. S. Barbour, Ratcliffe Hicks, Hon. William Hamersley, Ex-Mayor Sumner, Samuel F. Jones, William Henney, William Waldó Hyde, Charles R. Cole, Judge Willey, Mahlon R. West, and others.

After the meeting had been called to order Judge Waldo presented the following resolutions, which were read by the clerk:

**WHEREAS**, it having pleased our Heavenly Father, in His righteous providence, to remove by death the Hon. **ORIGEN S. SEYMOUR**, late chief justice of the supreme court of errors of this state, and a member of the

Connecticut bar, it is fitting that we, his brethren and associates, should turn aside from our ordinary avocations to briefly contemplate the characteristics of a life which will ever remain embalmed in our memories. Therefore, *Resolved*, That in the life and services of Judge SEYMOUR in the various positions he has been called to fill, we recognize the full exercise of all the qualities which mark the conduct of the good man and crown him with complete success. In the discharge of his duties as a member of our higher court he brought to it sound learning, untiring patience, acute discrimination, and a sacred regard for the rights and interests of all parties concerned; as an advocate he was attractive, earnest, and sincere; as a counsellor he was sagacious, practical, and conservative; as a member of the state and national legislatures he was constant in his attendance, a careful observer of their transactions, a rigid economist and a firm supporter of all measures tending to secure the equal protection of all citizens of the commonwealth; as a man and Christian gentleman he possessed a well-balanced mind, so symmetrical as to cover all angularity; a temper unruffled and sweet, and a catholic which included every person who seemed to be honestly searching for truth; as a friend he was ardent, confiding, constant, and true; in every place he has acted well his part in life and left a reputation unsullied by any stain.

*Resolved*, That the widow and children of the deceased

man have our tenderest sympathies, and while we are conscious that no words of ours can mitigate their deep affliction, we cannot refrain from pointing them to the pure life and spotless example of him who has been taken from them, in the belief that by following him, as he followed the example of his Divine Master, they will find some consolation in their deepest sorrow.

*Resolved,* That these resolutions be entered on our minutes by the clerk of this bar, and that he transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased, and furnish a like copy for publication in the newspapers in this city.

Judge Waldo said: "It is not expected of me to make any lengthy remarks on this occasion, but in view of the intimacy between Judge SEYMOUR and myself, I cannot refrain from saying a few words. We were friends in youth, although I am somewhat his senior. We began practice very near each other. The customs of that day brought the members of the bar into close connection. Our political views also brought us more and more together."

Judge Waldo then briefly reviewed the public life of Judge SEYMOUR, referring to his career in Congress at the time he himself was commissioner of pensions. The speaker then referred to Judge SEYMOUR's and his own election to the bench of the superior court.

In regard to the character of Judge SEYMOUR he would leave that to others to speak of. He knew of no blemish on his character, no stain upon his life.

Ex-Governor Hubbard said he was suffering from weakness, and begged to be excused from rising while he offered a few remarks. He then said:

"We are wont to be much more generous in our judgments of the dead than of the living. 'Tis a very convenient virtue, this, for it enables some men to nurse their jealousies till jealousy can no longer harm, and then to make by post-mortem laudations a seeming compensation for ante-mortem detractions and malignities. But I think we can all say to-day in very truth and soberness and with nothing of extravagance in eulogy, that we have just lost the foremost, undeniably the foremost lawyer, and, take him for all in all, the noblest citizen of our state.

I made the acquaintance of Judge SEYMOUR many years ago in the legislature as his associate on the judiciary committee—I say his associate, for so it was as a matter of form, but as a matter of fact he was the judiciary committee and I only his clerk; he one of the leaders of his county bar, and I not then out of my law studies. It has been my privilege to have been on terms of personal friendship with him ever since, and each recurring year has served only to broaden and deepen my respect and admiration for the man. His life was a full and rounded one in all relations, but he was, above all things else a lawyer, a lawyer in the largest and best sense of the word. There have been very few persons at the bar of this state who have honored this profession more, or been more

honored by it. I have known him less as a practicing lawyer than as a judge, and what I have to say will, therefore, relate for the most part to his judicial character.

He possessed, to begin with, an intellect which, if not brilliant or original, was receptive and absorbent in a very high degree, and which not only held and assimilated its stores but weighed them, as it were, in balances. Besides this judicial temper of mind, he brought to the bench very ample attainments in the science of the law, a large and varied experience in practice at the bar, and a certain sinewy common sense which added to his other attainments a practical working value that nothing else could have given. The possession of this last faculty is so important to the judicial mind that no amount of mere learning, industry, or even of genius can possibly make up for its absence. I hardly need add—what would naturally result from the premises—that he had a large measure of what is known amongst lawyers as judicial wisdom, that supreme endowment of a judge.

Accordingly, though possessed of a discriminating intellect, he did not suffer it to become too subtle and absolute in the applications of legal science to the varied and ever-varying affairs of men. He had an abundance of case learning; but was not a case lawyer. His opinions rarely failed to reach the very heart of a cause, were always simple and direct both in manner and matter, and never overlaid with a parade of learning, though never reached



without much care and research. He was not a little in this respect like that English judge reported in Leigh, who, after having listened to a battle of the books between two learned sergeants, concluded thus: "It will be seen that I have cited few cases in support of this opinion; not that I have not read and considered and puzzled myself with the multitude that were commented on in the argument, but because, finding them, like Swiss troops, fighting on both sides, I have laid them aside and gone on what seems to me to be the spirit of the law."

Neither did he ever attempt to display his quickness of parts by running ahead of the evidence or argument in a cause, as the manner of some is, and prejudging the conclusion by hasty prepossessions. He was well aware that it is a thousand times easier to plant a truth in the mind than to supplant an error there. He seemed to realize that the learning of the bar is as indispensable to the bench as the learning of the bench to justice, and that, as Lord Bacon says—perhaps somewhat too absolutely—"it is no grace to a judge first to find that which he might in due time have learned from the bar." In a word, he was never so quick-witted as to distance the cause, nor on the other hand so dull-witted as to get distanced by it.

I have never known a judge who was more scrupulously watchful of the movements of a trial, more intent on the precise matter in hand, more completely *totus in illis*.

His wits were never wool-gathering, and he abstained from bringing his epistolary and judicial faculty into hotchpot during a hearing. He never lacked in attention, even when counsel lacked in force or precision. He used, as you all will remember, to take very few notes of evidence; but his ears and memory were marvelously alert to all the disclosures of the cause. He had a habit of listening to an argument with closed eyes—owing, I suppose, to weakness of vision; but how sleepless his attention and reason were! And how those shut eyes of his used to open with mild surprise, sometimes with expressive reproach, at any perversion of fact or law or any other abuse, either in matter or manner of the just liberties of argument! A casual observer might easily have supposed him a sleepy if not a sleeping judge. But he was never that for a single instant; not even after that most drowsy and unjudicial thing, still tolerated by some portion of the American bench and bar, a mid-day recess and dinner. To men of sedentary lives and brain work, a plethoric stomach is only another name for a plethoric brain; and the afternoon struggles of either bench or bar with a self-imposed stupor, though very praiseworthy, are little helpful to speedy recoveries; and besides, they don't add a great deal to the dignity of the court.

He seemed to me to possess in a marked degree what we are accustomed to call the judicial conscience. His moral sense was keen and discriminating, and he had a

quick scent for the discovery of fraud, falsehood and oppression in the entanglements of a cause. Then again, how impartial and impersonal justice was as he administered it; and how blind to the face both of friend and foe! He might have been trusted, I should say, to sit in his own cause, except that in the stern ethics of the law, no man of woman born may do that, or judge a cause, and have so much as a farthing's interest in it. He was made up, as I analyze him, for a great chancellor. This office, under whatever name held, is the highest civil function exercised among men. It is the keeper of the people's conscience as legislatures and parliaments are the keepers of the people's power. It concerns itself with that toughest of all human problems, business morals and the everyday honesties of common life, a great code involving the nicest and most intricate casuistries—a code which even the gospels can only define, the pulpit only preach, and the legislatures only prescribe in generals, but which chancery defines and prescribes in detail and—what is more to the purpose—applies and executes with a quiver full of every sort of coercive, restraining and biting remedies; not by money compensations only as at law, but by specific relief and the enforced undoing of things done which ought not to have been done, and the doing of things left undone which ought to have been done. If there be a higher or more difficult office in the state than this, I know not what it is. Such an office

he would have filled to its full, and made it illustrious with the noble ethics of equity law carried home to the business of men. How he was at the bar I have less means of knowing, but on the bench he manifested an instinctive aversion to those technicalities, strategies and circuitics which stand in the way of the right and prompt administration of justice, as also a certain natural bent to reach out from the law side of the court and borrow relief from the equity side—to the breaking down, as some of us of less wisdom sometimes thought, of the fences that stood between; so that once in a while we were half-inclined to accuse him, as the fashion was in his day to accuse Lord Mansfield, of “introducing too much equity into his court.” But I think we begin to see now that these reachings out of his were only the impatient chafings of a servant of the law against its clogs and fetters, growth-struggles of the oak with its imprisoning bark, great leaderships in advance of his fellows out of the servitudes and trammels of legal administration, not into license and confusion, but into the better rules of a better liberty.

And this leads me to say a word of his recent services as a law reformer. You would have said in advance that he was the last lawyer in the state to rebel against an old hereditary bondage of the law. Like the man in the iron mask, he had got used to it and lived and grown old in it. But he saw and felt what some of our best lawyers have found it so difficult to see and feel—that the

law has remained for centuries a dead and cowardly conservatism rusted and crusted all over with what Burke in the glamor of his eloquence calls "the awful hour of innumerable ages." It is beginning of late to cast off its mouldy grave clothes, and to quicken into a new life, a larger freedom and better use—and all this, not by violent disruptions or reckless experiments but by a system of careful surgeries and new adaptations founded on the changed conditions and actuated needs of society and on the best studies of some of the best minds of the age. How bold and courageous he was for reform, and yet how careful, discreet and wise, let our new system of civil procedure testify. By this work more than by all else he has done, he has left his mark on the jurisprudence of the state. The fame of the best lawyer ordinarily goes with him into his coffin; but I cannot doubt that this service of his rendered to law reform will make his name and fame abide in honor when the lives of the rest of us shall be as a watch in the night that is past.

His public life was most fortunate in all things save one. He was elected to the bench of the superior court in 1855 by unanimity, if I remember right. He was dropped from it at the end of his first term in 1863. Though less a partisan on the bench than any other man who ever sat there, his political enemies thought to censure him for his political opinions. When the great lawyer, Berryer, was brought to trial under Louis Philippe as an

enemy to the revolution of 1830, the leaders of the French bar took their places beside him in the criminal dock. The president of the court requesting them to retire, as "that was no place for advocates in their official robes," they replied: "The bench of the accused is so honored to-day that we thought to do ourselves honor by taking our places on it." As there in that case, so here in this, the better part of the whole bar of our state gathered with and around their accused and fallen chief. Having said this, I hasten to add that the accused was not long in putting to shame his accusers; for in better days, and that, too, after no long waiting, the state righted in an exemplary manner the wrong done to its great magistrate, and raised him to the highest rank of the supreme bench by a promotion altogether exceptional, and, better than all, with the general consent of the whole bench, the whole bar, and the whole people of the state. Time, though often slow in its retributions, revenges now and then with indignant haste the bigotries of men, and sooner or later popularity runs after him who deserves it, though he run not after it.

But what can I say of our deceased brother that shall not leave the best part unsaid? The loss of official rank by one whom the office honors—not he the office—carries with it always, to a greater or less degree, a loss of personal rank and consideration, sometimes almost an eclipse. In the case of our deceased friend, the loss by constitutional

limitation of the highest judicial office in the state seemed to take nothing from his honors, nothing from the popular estimate of the man, as also it took nothing from his activities and usefulness. He continued up to the time of his last sickness to discharge a great variety of the most important public trusts, ministerial, judicial, and legislative. Old age came upon him, to be sure, yet not dry and barren, but green and fruitful as an olive tree in autumn bending with the labor of the olive. What "honor, love, obedience, troops of friends," waited on his closing years! How near he was to the hearts not merely of the bench and bar, but the people of the state; and he fell at last, just as he would have wished to fall, in harness and in the thick of affairs.

As a friend of the deceased and a fellow with him in the profession he so much honored, I offer here these poor words of tribute, which have no merit but their sincerity, to the memory of an elder brother whom we all loved with one heart and mind, and a patriarch whom we all revered.

And now, in conclusion, this half century of just and useful life-work done, this race of honor run and won, not without sweat and toil, we commend, with one accord and a common love, grief and homage, we commend this Christian sleeper to the hospitable bosom of our common mother, till the day break and the shadows flee away; and so, in the saintly language of the, saintly Fuller

“We leave our good judge to receive a just reward of his integrity from the Judge of judges at the great assize of the world.”

REMARKS OF MR. HAMERSLEY.

State-Attorney William Hamersley followed. His remarks were as follows :

There is no member of the bar whose heart does not prompt him to bring some tribute—some token of reverence and of love—to the grave of ORIGEN S. SEYMOUR.

Not once in a generation does our profession furnish such a complete type of what a lawyer may be ; of what we all, who believe in our life-work, with more or less of faithfulness, strive to attain.

We sometimes attempt to separate, in our judgment, the lawyer from the man ; and to assign an eminence to the former we decline to yield to the latter. Such an analysis is never justifiable. In no walk of life is the quality of a man's work so indissolubly joined with the character of the man as in our profession. One may be a recondite student, an eloquent advocate, a skillful cross-examiner, or a powerful logician, and yet fail to earn a high rank among true lawyers.

The law is not a trade in which to build up a great fortune, not a science whereby to construct an enduring monument, not an office endowed with rank and power. It is rather a mission, demanding from its followers their time, their energies, their gifts ; and promising small reward



beyond the pleasure that attends its duties and the consciousness of work well done.

The life of a lawyer is spent in working for others, and in the execution of that work he is often bound to advise and to act against his own interest. The results of his work are so closely connected with the results flowing from the work of his brethren that he can scarcely call them his own. His very fame belongs to the profession. Hence the essential nature of our duties and ambitions involve a certain surrender of self. It is safe to say that a thoroughly selfish man is incapable of performing the work of a lawyer.

Whoever follows this mission has need to bend himself to hard labor. The riches of the law lie not on the surface. They are found only after much seeking and unceasing toil. Hence the discipline of industry with all its attendant lessons belongs to the successful lawyer.

Our daily duties require a constant revision of judgments once formed; a putting of ourselves in the positions of others; a recognition of the mingling of motives; a tracing of the good as well as bad lines of action;—so that our training tends to cultivate, what the wise performance of many of our duties demands—a fair and kindly judgment of our fellows. A harsh and unfeeling view of others' acts is not simply a fault in the man; it is a serious defect in the lawyer.

The law touches life at all points. It watches over the

sanctity of home; it regulates the intercourse of men in all business; it limits the expression of vice; it controls the conduct of the state. The ability to apply the principles of law to this infinite variety of subjects, comprising every relation of life and all human actions and even thoughts, demands more than profound learning or singular astuteness,—it calls for general culture, for broad sympathy, for generous impulse, and for a keen sense and love of justice.

In our own country the lawyer has special duties in relation to the state. We are called upon in the legitimate exercise of our profession to control the acts, to construe the laws, to mould the policy and even to lay the foundations of government. These duties cannot be well performed except under the direction of a sober and true patriotism.

Such are some of the requirements the law makes upon her followers, not for mere ornament, but as essential to her true and complete service: unselfishness, industry, kindly judgment of others, broad sympathy and love of justice, patriotism. These are traits of character requisite to the higher range of a lawyer's work. No real eminence in the profession can be attained without the possession of some of them. The highest places of honor are reserved for those in whom all are combined.

It is the rare combination of qualities which make the true lawyer that determines the professional rank of Judge SEYMOUR.

In describing the typical lawyer we give the truest description of his character.

As advocate, counsellor, judge, legislator for church and state and nation, we find him true to this high standard.

And beyond all this, he had the gift of impressing his acts with a rare kindness of heart. His way through life was not only sternly true, but at every step it flowers with kindly thoughts and generous acts.

Wonder has often been expressed that during his last years, at an age we are accustomed to associate with a dread of change, he should have devoted himself with the enthusiasm of youth to promoting reforms in the law. Such a course is not really strange in view of his life and character; but it serves to illustrate most strongly both his full comprehension of the nature of his profession and his high appreciation of its duties.

And now his busy life is ended. The toil and all that goes to make up the labor of life is over—gone as completely as if it had never been. But the results—the high example, the genuine deeds, the contributions, known and unknown, to the right understanding and application of those living principles of law, on which human happiness depends, will remain always.

He rests from his labor, and his works do follow him.

EX-MAYOR ROBINSON.

The Hon. Henry C. Robinson spoke next in the following words :

I do not recall, sir, the occasion when this bar, since I have been in its communion, has met for a greater mourning than to-day.

Taking him all in all, as judge, advocate, legislator, statesman, and man, Judge SEYMOUR had very few peers in the history of the bar of Connecticut. Sixty years ago, a student at Yale, he encountered obstacles in his way of study which would have disheartened most young men. He was almost entirely deprived of eyesight, and for many terms his lessons were learned chiefly from the lips of his room-mate. But with this immense limitation he took away almost the highest academic honors.

Perhaps in that very discipline was developed his wonderful memory, which has so often excited our wonder, and which enabled him almost without note or memorandum to carry the details of testimony and the links of reasoning in his retentive mind. It was not just such a memory as Lord Macaulay's, which he was proud to claim was so exact that, were every printed copy of *Paradise Lost* and *Pilgrim's Progress* destroyed, he could reproduce them both without the loss of a word; but it was a memory which sifted out the waste of testimony and argument, often so extensive and dreary, and held, as in crystal, things which were relevant and controlling.

Judge SEYMOUR brought to the bench and bar absolute purity of purpose, great natural justice, sharp insight, and large comprehensiveness.

To these he added the drill of constant intellectual exercise, the thorough study of judicial investigations, and the constantly-renewed view of elemental principles.

He learned to know what the best results of courts had made the rules of law, and, better, he knew what the absolute rules of justice and fairness ought to make them.

While finely guarded in the great thoughts which make the sturdy skeleton of jurisprudence, he was ever keenly sensitive to the new circumstances and delicate variations which call for judicial results which, at first glance, seem to be new.

He was effective without being brilliant, conservative without bigotry, progressive but not visionary, fond of precedents but not their slave.

He left the bench with all the artless integrity of Williams, with the rugged common sense of Hinman, and with the philosophical acuteness of Storrs.

The exercise of his natural greatness and scientific culture was only surpassed by his modesty. He had, as we reckon things, a right to be proud; but he was humble. He might have been exclusive, but he was universal in his tenderness. His acquisitions never for a moment quenched his sympathy with inexperience. He loved nature and he loved man. He made the world better, wiser, and happier for every week of his life.

The picture of Judge SEYMOUR'S closing years is worthy of description by the pen of a John Wilson.

There was in it so much of pathos and tenderness and beauty. Living on the green hills of Litchfield, drinking in the beauties of every sunset and cloud and wild flower, loved by every neighbor, revered by a leading profession, honored by a state, fresh in the power of every intellectual faculty, and at last his long day of usefulness sinking in a short twilight, and ministered to in his weakness by hands of uncommon love.

Tell me where, in the history of American villages, has been gathered such a company as met upon the broad street a few months ago. Three husbands and three wives, neighbors, friends, and kin-folks, upon whose serene and pure married lives fifty years had passed and found the three couples still vigorous in life, and still warm in affection. They had "climbed the hill together almost in common step, they are waiting to reap together in a few days at its foot."

I cannot, in closing, help expressing a feeling which is dominant in my own heart at such a grave. It is a sense of humanity's divine lineage. Who shall measure the length, and breadth, and height, and depth of such a full, round, character? It is the flower of our civilization; it is the flower of a pure broad Christianity. And who can doubt its immortality?

MR. WILLEY.

Judge Hiram Willey made the closing remarks, which were as follows:

It would be superfluous for me to undertake to add anything to the well-merited eulogies which have been so eloquently pronounced upon the character of our deceased friend and brother; yet I cannot refrain from adding a few words. It was my good fortune to have known him for many years. He was a judge of the superior court when I first became acquainted with him in the year 1855-6, and he was holding court where I then resided, at New London. I found him friendly, just, and true—a man without eccentricities, without any show or pretence of superiority, not puffed up, who vaunted not himself, but who treated all with courtesy and acted with simplicity and sincerity. Having great legal learning, a clear head, and an enlightened Christian conscience, he was a model judge. None could withhold from him their respect and esteem. He lived and died a true man. He has left us a most worthy example, and has taught us how a true lawyer may make his life sublime.

At the close of Judge Willey's address the resolutions were unanimously passed, and the meeting adjourned.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY BAR.

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The Committee appointed by the Bar to take appropriate action on the death of Chief-Justice SEYMOUR reported to the Court this afternoon. The Committee submitted the following minute to the Court:

The Bar of Fairfield County has heard, with profound sorrow, the mournful intelligence of the death of Hon. ORIGEN S. SEYMOUR, late Chief-Judge of this State.

By his death the State has lost one of its ablest and most distinguished citizens, the Bar one of its most learned members, and his family its loved and cherished head.

While the span of his life was more than "three score years and ten," his mental faculties remained unimpaired, and when called to his final rest, he willingly obeyed the summons, confidently trusting in the promises which he had made his staff and support during his long and active life.

His large and extensive practice at the Bar brought him into close and intimate relations with the ablest legal minds of the State, and in his professional contests he invariably sustained his cause with a skill and ability in



no way inferior to that displayed by those with whom he came in contact.

Dignified and upright in the practice of his profession, he never resorted to petty artifices to secure any advantage for his client, relying only on the justice of his cause.

As a judge, he held evenly the scales of justice and allowed no prejudice or sympathy to sway or affect his judgment, and administered impartially the duties of his high office; and in all his other public relations, he has discharged faithfully and with signal ability the trusts which have been confided to him.

A great and good man has fallen, but he has left behind him the legacy of a priceless reputation, which will be ever lovingly cherished by the people of his native state.

*Resolved*, That the foregoing minutes be communicated to the presiding Judge of this Court, and that he be requested to cause the same to be entered on the records of the Court, and a duly certified copy transmitted by the Clerk to the family of the deceased.

In submitting the resolutions, Hon. James H. Olmstead, Chairman of the Committee, spoke substantially as follows:  
*May it please the Court and Brethren of the Bar of Fairfield County:*

We have met together to pay tribute to the memory of ORIGEN S. SEYMOUR, the advocate, jurist, statesman, and Christian gentleman. He has gone to his rest. His body has been consigned to the dust of his native Litchfield

Hill, and we shall look upon his face no more. His spirit has fled to God who gave it—to that God whom he delighted to call his Father.

The church to which he was so strongly attached, the Bar of Litchfield County, of which he was a distinguished member, and the Bar of the adjoining county of Hartford, have already fitly spoken of his life and services. And now it most appropriately becomes us, who knew the deceased so well—and only to love and admire—to drop a tear over his departure, and learn lessons of wisdom from the story of his life.

Judge SEYMOUR's life was prolonged to almost four score years. He was born on the 9th of February, 1804, and died on the 12th of August, 1881. He came of an old Litchfield family, to which Gov. Horatio Seymour of New York, Senator Horatio Seymour of Vermont, and many other distinguished public men belonged. His grandfather, Major Moses Seymour, was distinguished for the part he bore in the Revolutionary War; and his father, Ozias Seymour, a successful farmer of Litchfield, was for many years Sheriff of his county. He early conceived the idea of making of his son a merchant, and at the early age of fourteen years, placed him in a mercantile house in New York city. In those days, it was expected that the youngest clerk would act as guard during the night by sleeping in the store. The dampness of the apartment to which young Seymour was consigned soon brought on a sickness,

which drove him back to his home in Litchfield. This circumstance proved to be the turning-point in his life. It resulted in furnishing repeatedly a member of the Legislature from his native town, once a member of Congress from the Fourth Congressional District of Connecticut, and in giving to the State a speaker of its House of Representatives, a judge of its Superior Court, and the Chief-Judge of its Supreme Court of Errors.

Those of us who believe "there's a Divinity which shapes our ends," cannot but discover the hand of God directing the future life of that young boy. Thanks to the pure and invigorating air of Litchfield Hill, returning health soon appeared; and young Seymour, perhaps for the first time, conceived the idea of educating himself for one of the learned professions. This idea soon gained the mastery of him, and caused him to commence at once his preparation for college. He pursued his studies with that honesty of purpose and prudent zeal which characterized him in all his future transactions in life. At the end of two years, he entered Yale College as a Freshman.

About this time his eyes became diseased to such an extent that he was unable to use them in preparing his recitations. Days, weeks, and months brought him no relief. At last he was informed that years might pass before he could resume the use of his eyes. This information, imparted to one less resolute than he, would have caused him to change all his plans for the future.

But it produced the opposite effect upon him. He resolved to continue his college course, and resorted to perhaps an unprecedented expedient to effect his purpose. James Gould, son of the celebrated Judge Gould of Litchfield, became his room-mate. He consented to read aloud the lessons they were to commit. It was by listening to this reading that young Seymour was enabled to pursue his college course, and graduate in 1824, standing well in his class. He pursued the same plan in his study of the law, and was admitted as an attorney of the court in 1826.

The method of study which he was compelled to adopt strengthened his memory to an almost unlimited extent. Years afterwards, he could repeat nearly every line of the *Æneid* of Virgil. In the trial of a cause, no matter how many days were consumed in taking evidence, he seldom made a note of the testimony, and when he did, it was of a word merely; and yet he remembered the names of all the witnesses, and in his argument to the court and jury presented every important fact. He grasped at once whatever was read to him, and was enabled to recall the substance of it at pleasure.

He became an able lawyer and a successful advocate. In the management of his cases, he was above all "ways that are dark." All trickery and underhanded methods were strangers to his practice, and when discovered in others, were despised and condemned. He was open and frank in all his ways. If he won a case, it was by his industry

in preparing it for trial, and his able and logical manner of presenting the law and the evidence to the court and jury. He was famed, in the community where he was best known, for his efforts and success in effecting settlements between parties to litigations. It was often remarked of him, that he settled more cases than he tried. He was often brought in contact with the best legal minds of the State, and proved inferior to none. Perhaps he was not engaged in many cases that became notorious to the general public, but he was frequently called upon to try most important and difficult issues, both in law and fact. Few lawyers had more experience than he in that direction. He secured a large practice, which constantly increased, until 1851, when he was elected to Congress.

Previous to this time he had been frequently a member of the Legislature, and in 1850 was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives. In politics he was always a Democrat, but never radical. He was firm in his convictions, but moderate in the expression of them. He always respected the views of those who differed from him, and treated them with the utmost respect and consideration. He was never what is generally termed a politician. He could not be from his very nature. He took interest in politics only to such an extent as duty impelled in the discharge of his obligations as a freeman of the State.

He was faithful in the discharge of his duties as a member of the Legislature, as Speaker of the House of

Representatives, and as a member of Congress. He brought to the discharge of the duties which these positions imposed upon him great natural ability, a thorough education, undisputed honesty of purpose, industry not excelled, and indomitable perseverance. We know the result of these qualities when used in a legislative capacity. Their impress will be seen and felt in a legislative body. And such was the result in his case. He compelled all who were brought in contact with him to acknowledge his statesmanship.

At the time of the abolition of the old County Courts, in 1855, and the partial reorganization of the Superior Courts, four new Superior Court Judges were appointed, two from the American and Republican party, which was in the majority, and two from the Democratic party, which was in the minority. ORIGEN S. SEYMOUR was one of the two judges appointed from the Democratic party. It is from this time that we are to speak of him as Judge.

Perhaps it would not be invidious for me to assert that no man ever brought to that office better qualifications than Judge SEYMOUR. He had, first, undoubted ability. Possessed of large perceptive faculties, he was a man of uncommon discernment. This led him to closely investigate every subject presented to his mind, to carefully gather together all the facts connected with it, and obtain a thorough knowledge of them. And then, as we have seen, he had a most retentive memory, so that all his observations were stored away in his mind.

He had large reasoning faculties, and was enabled to deduce from the treasures of knowledge, which he retained in his memory, correct conclusions—in other words, to form a correct judgment—with regard to all his investigations. This was eminently true of all his legal investigations, showing that he had a thoroughly judicial mind, in accordance with the highest acceptance of that term.

Then he was most assiduous, never wasting a moment, always seeking information from every source. And especially was this true with regard to the profession he had chosen. He was constantly seeking for legal precedents and treasuring them up in his mind, so that he became a man of great legal attainments.

Then he was perfectly honest and upright. No man ever tried a case before him feeling that the issues raised were decided before the trial. He had no favorites, no outside influences could affect him, there was no political or other power behind the bench. His findings and his decisions were invariably the honest convictions of his heart and mind. If he erred it was because his ability to discern the right had failed, after the most careful and laborious effort on his part.

Then he wore the ermine so modestly, and was so kind and considerate on the bench. He always regarded the feelings of the counsel employed, whether old or young, as well as the feelings of the parties and witnesses in the case, and when the time came for his decision, it was

rendered in such kindly tones, with such unaffected gentleness of manner, and with such an air of sincerity, that even the defeated party felt drawn towards the man, and by the reasons advanced, was often unwillingly convinced that the finding of judgment was just. Judge SEYMOUR was a model judge.

His term of office expired in 1863, amid the wildest political excitement the history of this country has ever known; and perhaps it is not strange that, at that time, even Judge SEYMOUR, being a Democrat, should not have been re-elected. But no sooner had the passions of men subsided than every eye was again turned towards him, when a judge of the Supreme Court of Errors was to be elected, and he was chosen to fill the position. Afterwards he became the Chief-Judge of that Court, which position he held until his age disqualified him. Even then the public would not permit him to retire from active life, nor did he seem to desire so to do. He had always been a man of unceasing activity, and he could not be content to abandon labor as long as work came to him to be done, and he had strength to perform it. He was constantly employed, until age and declining health compelled him to remain at home. His work consisted in trying cases as a committee in all parts of the State. In one county most of the cases upon the Superior Court docket were, at one time, by agreement of parties, referred to him as a committee to try.



In the language of a writer in a Litchfield paper : "In 1877, he was chairman of the commission which exposed the irregularities of the Charter Oak Insurance Company. Above all, in 1878, he was chairman of the commission which prepared our new code. \* \* \* In 1878, he was chairman of the commission whose labors have finally settled the long disputed boundary between this State and New York, and have given the State of Connecticut the exclusive jurisdiction of the oyster fisheries lying off our southern coast. These services of his rank perhaps equally in importance with any which he ever performed, and must always be highly appreciated."

I have thus far spoken of Judge SEYMOUR as a public man. A few thoughts with regard to him as a private citizen may not prove unprofitable. His private life was beautiful and exemplary. He was honest and upright in all his ways. From his youth he was remarkable for his purity of thought and expression. He hated everything low and vulgar, whether in thought, word, or deed. He was extremely social in his nature, and always had a smile, a warm grasp of the hand, and a kind word for every one he met, rich or poor, high or low in station. He was possessed of a warm and tender heart. It was as the heart of a child, and responded to every call of suffering, want, or sorrow.

He was benevolent far beyond what is generally known. His was the hand of charity, but it was unseen by the

world. The amounts given by him to the poor will never be known to man. May I not with propriety so far trespass upon the sanctity of his domestic life, as to say, that in his family he was always kind and considerate—he was an affectionate husband and a loving father.

He manifested a lively interest in all local questions which arose affecting the welfare and prosperity of the town of his nativity. He found time amid all the cares of a busy life to gratify his literary tastes. He was conversant with all the literary and scientific writers of his time. He was exceedingly fond of poetry. Milton, Wordsworth, and Bryant were his favorite authors. He passionately admired the sublime and beautiful in nature. A brilliant sunset was to him an inspiration; while an extended view of mountain scenery would entrance his vision for hours at a time. He often sought recreation from his labors by rambling through fields and woods and drinking in the natural beauties which surrounded him on every side.

But paramount to all else in the life of Judge SEYMOUR stands out the fact that he was a true Christian gentleman. For forty years he was an active and consistent member of the Episcopal Church in Litchfield. For many years he invariably represented St. Michael's Parish as a delegate to the conventions of the diocese, and since 1868 he has represented the laymen of the diocese in every National Triennial Convention of the Episcopal Church. As remarked to me recently by a distinguished clergyman of

that church, he was the leading layman of the diocese of Connecticut. His counsel and advice were sought after continually. He was thoroughly grounded in the faith of his church, and seemed never for a moment to doubt the efficacy of Christ's blood to cleanse from all sin.

The life and character and peaceful death of such men is refreshing to believers, in these materialistic days. While Judge SEYMOUR was far from perfect, yet to him, if to any man, may be applied the beautiful thoughts and words of the great poet, when he wrote :

"His life was gentle; and the elements  
So mixed in him, that nature might stand up  
And say to all the world,— *This is a man!*"

The following are the remarks of W. K. SEELEY, Esq  
*May it Please Your Honor:*

'Tis well that we should, once in a while, stop the hurry and rush of this busy material age, and contemplate the results of some lives that appear to have lived as examples for others and for us, rather than for themselves.

The man whose death this Bar to-day have met to mourn is an illustrious instance of this class of lives. If we will only analyze his character, how delightful we find it.

As a Christian gentleman he was devout without bigotry; of charity he was most bountiful, but his good deeds

were done not only without ostentation, but with a privacy which made them doubly blessed to the recipient.

In his private life he was the cheerful companion of the most humble and lowly, and the equal and peer of the most cultured and intellectual. Possessed of a wit keen and sharp, but ever kindly and delicate; a sense of humor that appreciated all that was ludicrous, but never offending the unhappy or unconscious perpetrator; a large and varied experience among men of every degree, he made one of the most agreeable and instructive of conversationalists.

In his public life he was distinguished for the industry and assiduity with which he made himself acquainted with every fact, circumstance, and detail which related to those affairs which came under his charge.

As a member of Congress, as a member of our own Legislature, his laborious and conscientious toil in the exhaustive examination of those subjects committed to his care made his opinions upon them authoritative and decisive.

He brought also to the performance of his public duties that same simple unwavering integrity that made a part of his life in every situation. Conciliatory, urbane, suggesting sound reasons rather than enforcing them with "fierceful" argument, he carried with him an influence generally controlling and always powerful.

His manner of speaking in public assemblies could not fail to remind one of that other patriot and pure gen-

tleman, John Hampden, as he is described by Clarendon: "He was of that rare affability and temper in debate, and of that seeming humility and submission of judgment, as if he brought no opinion of his own with him, but a desire of information and instruction. Yet he had so subtle a way of interrogating, and, under cover of doubts, insinuating his objections, that he infused his own opinions into those from whom he pretended to learn and receive them."

As a lawyer, Judge SEYMOUR had no superior in the State—if indeed his equal.

Possessing neither the ponderous figure or powerful voice, which have added so greatly to the reputation and influence of some of our profession, he made no effort at oratory. But he was a master of good old English law. Its grand rules and principles, having their foundations upon immutable justice, appeared to be born within him.

His intellect, acute, subtle, penetrating, seemed intuitively to strike the key-note of his cause. The facts of his clients' case were, with a most skillful hand, grouped together until they appeared to have so cemented themselves with law and justice alike as to resist every assault.

The clearness of his reasoning, its pertinency to the exact point under examination, his complete familiarity with first principles, his persuasive voice and manner, his appeals to the justice of his cause, made him a most powerful opponent.

His country life, his large experience of men, had so familiarized him with the thoughts and operations of the mind of the average jurymen, that he appeared to have taken them along with him as though they were his invited guests instead of his triers.

His face, beaming with that kindness which burned so brightly in his breast, seemed to kindle like warmth in the jury, 'till at last they almost lost their self-consciousness and gave themselves up to the pure gratification of listening and agreeing with their friend and instructor.

As a judge he was indeed most admirable. That almost intuitive knowledge of the very foundations and superstructure of the English law; that industry which he brought to every duty; that intellect so fine and yet so strong, and trained to do its work as though it was a piece of most perfect machinery, made him upon legal questions among and perhaps the strongest judge upon the bench.

These same qualities, added to the benignity of his heart, qualified him for the most just disposition of the facts of every cause heard before him. In truth, the only criticism which can possibly be suggested upon his judicial career is that this kindness of heart was so active and strong that he pitied even the man against whom he was compelled to render judgment, and tried to find some circumstance which should palliate to some extent the act of the wrong-doer.

We do not look back upon him as he presided in court and expect to find the stern figure and features of justice unalloyed with mercy. He does not present himself to our memories as we regard a Mansfield, a Marshall, or a Williams.

But that superb temper which made no outcry when a State in its insane madness, under the pangs of a civil war, turned the picture of the face of another Seymour to the wall, and dismissed this one from those duties he performed so well, never left him.

This imperturbable temper of mind, and his ease of deportment, gave him a character which made the court where he presided both dignified and pleasant.

Unkindness towards him by counsel would have excited as much astonishment as a parricide among the Romans.

When counsel at the Bar, heated with zeal and worn with labor, seemed about to enter into unseemly controversies, the gently upraised hand and the rebuking eyes at once restored the contesting counsel to their self-control and the consciousness of their duty to the court and themselves.

No counsel, however dull and however lacking in a correct understanding of his cause, failed of a patient and attentive hearing; and having been heard, his cause was as carefully studied, considered, and decided as though presented by the highest at the Bar.

As we saw the various high and complicated duties of

this gentleman day by day and year by year, performed by him with an integrity, ability, and ease which seemed so natural that we scarcely regarded their importance, or the skill with which they were executed; but now that he is crowned with death and we catch, not glimpses, but a sight of his whole life, how beautiful do we find it, and how we now wonder at its nobleness—no fault, no heart wounded, no duty left undone or neglected in the doing. A man whose ability was of the highest order and whose graces of mind and heart were most admirable, has left us his example; may we profit by it.

At the conclusion of Mr. Seeley's address, his Honor, Judge HOVEY, spoke as follows:

I fully concur with the members of the Bar in the action taken by them upon the death of the late Judge SEYMOUR. The resolutions they have adopted contain a just tribute to the memory of that illustrious man, and I shall take pleasure in directing that they be entered upon the records of this court.

In his position on the bench of the Supreme Court of Errors and of this Court, as well as at the Bar, and in every public position which he held, Judge SEYMOUR maintained a character for pure integrity, great ability, thorough legal knowledge, sound judgment, and love of justice; and he so well and so faithfully performed every duty that devolved upon him, as to gain the affection



and respect of both Bench and Bar, and the confidence and esteem of the people throughout the State; while in private life his exalted personal character, his great goodness of heart and his kind, amiable, and generous disposition, endeared him to all with whom he had intercourse. Few men have enjoyed so largely, so generally, and so deservedly as he, the confidence and affection of their fellow citizens, and few have gone down to the grave so universally respected, esteemed and lamented.

The Clerk will enter the resolutions of the Bar upon the records of the Court.

