

WILLIAM BRISTOL, the youngest son of Judge Simeon Bristol (Yale 1760), of Hamden, then part of New Haven, was born on June 2, 1779.

He studied law in the office of the Hon. David Daggett, and was admitted to the bar in New Haven County in November, 1800. In 1800-02 his father built for him the handsome house on Elm Street, after the pattern of the adjacent mansion of Judge Daggett, which was torn down in 1908 to make room for the new Public Library.

He was Speaker of the House of Representatives of Connecticut in 1817. He represented New Haven in the Convention held in Hartford in 1818 which formed the present State constitution.

In 1818 and 1819 he was a member of the State Senate, and (*ex-officio*) of the Corporation of the College.

In 1819, at the comparatively early age of forty, he was appointed Judge of the Superior Court and Supreme Court of Errors, which office he held until his resignation in 1826, having in that year been appointed Judge of the District Court of the United States for the District of Connecticut, in which latter office he continued until his death.

He was elected an alderman of the city in 1818, 1821, and 1826, and Mayor in June, 1827, holding the office for one year. In 1825 he was nominated by his political friends as candidate for Governor, but declined, preferring the quietude of the judicial station to the excitements attending a political canvass.

In 1830 he was joined with Judge Samuel Church (Yale 1803) in the report of a new and revised criminal code for the State.

He died suddenly, after a period of infirmity, in New Haven, on Monday evening, March 7, 1836, in his 57th year.

Judge Bristol was a man of superior mental powers, which he cultivated with untiring industry. His learning,

ability, and integrity, united with a courteous urbanity, elicited the admiration of his professional brethren and won the confidence of the community. "As a judge he was the favorite of everyone, judges, jurors, witnesses, and counsel, all bore willing testimony to the ability and impartiality with which his official duty was invariably performed. Towards the younger members of the profession he was particularly kind, attentive, and encouraging; and no young man practicing before him could feel the slightest apprehension that the merits of his case would be overlooked in the decision, no matter how diffident he might be in presenting his views, or however powerful and experienced might be the counsel opposed to him. Such was the confidence placed in the decisions of Judge Bristol, that controversies involving large sums and intricate questions, were frequently referred to him by the parties, and were quietly disposed of in a short time in his office, which would otherwise have required months or years of expensive litigation." He lived universally respected, and his death was deeply lamented.

He was married, in New Haven, on January 6, 1805, by the Rev. Dr. Bela Hubbard, to Sarah (or Sally) Edwards, of New Haven, who died on December 24, 1866, aged 86 years. Three sons were graduates of Yale, in 1825, 1827, and 1835, and a daughter married John Murdoch (Yale 1834).

His only separate publication, over his own name, was the following:

An Address, intended to have been delivered (in substance) at the late Town Meeting, in New-Haven; in Reply to the reasons urged for requesting His Excellency the Governor to convene the General Assembly, to take into consideration the alarming situation of Public Affairs; but prevented from being delivered by causes herein explained. Together with a Short Account of that Extraordinary Meeting. By William Bristoll, Esq. New-Haven, 1809. 8°, pp. 19. [M. H. S. N. Y. H. S. Y. C.

In defence of the Embargo. The Address seems to have been hooted down by the opposition.

He delivered the Fourth of July Oration in New Haven in 1800, but it does not seem to have been printed.

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AUTHORITIES.

*Kilbourn*, Litchfield County Bench March 8 and 9, 1836. Storer's Amer. and Bar, 77. N. H. City Year Book, Hist. Magazine, 158. 1863, 97-98. N. H. Daily Herald,

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ENOS BRONSON, the eldest child of Eli Bronson, of Waterbury, Connecticut, and grandson of Isaac and Eunice (Richards) Bronson, of Waterbury, was born in that town on March 31, 1774. His mother was Mehetabel, eldest daughter of Captain Enos and Hannah (Moss) Atwater, of Wallingford.

After leaving College he began the study of law; but by the summer of 1799 had gone to Philadelphia, where he taught for a time in the Episcopal Academy.

There he conceived the idea of conducting a Federalist newspaper, and after a full correspondence with President Dwight on the subject, he undertook in March, 1801, the publication of *The Gazette of the United States, and Daily Advertiser*, which he edited with great ability until his death. He was an earnest opponent of the Democratic party, and the *Gazette* exercised a powerful influence throughout the country.

Mr. Bronson wrote with great vigor and directness, in a pure, lucid, and simple style. He was a master of irony, sarcasm, and invective, and his printing-office was repeatedly threatened with vengeance for his outspokenness.

As the head of the business-firm which published the *Gazette*, he supervised and issued editions of *Roscoe's Lorenzo de Medici* (1803) and *Leo X* (1805-06), with the purpose of assisting to cultivate a taste for literature and history.

He died in Philadelphia on April 17, 1823, at the age of 49.