

The Evening Gazette

HUDSON & ROSE, PROPRIETORS.

H. S. HUDSON. L. M. ROSE.

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FOR GOVERNOR IN 1872,

Washington C. De Pauw,

OF FLOYD COUNTY.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1872.

Judge Pettit.

Judge John Pettit leaves the city to-day, after having presided some ten days on the bench of our Circuit Court.

The cases which the Judge came here to try, were those of Humston vs. McGregory, and Lockridge vs. Hudson. Both these cases were important, and the defendants in both preferred they should be tried by an able and experienced Judge, and hence Judge Pettit was requested to come here, and preside during the trials. That he presided with decorum and propriety is the gratifying remark of every one; that he decided all the important questions of law growing out of those complicated cases, with distinguished ability, sound judgment, and great legal learning, can not for a moment be questioned. His manner of presiding and the strict rules of order he enforced, were the admiration of all. The great impartiality of his decisions won for him the highest respect and esteem of all our citizens.

He brought back to the recollection of many of this people the times, when to be a practitioner at the bar, one had to be a gentleman; when our court-rooms were places where the utmost order and gentlemanly demeanor prevailed; when blackguards and pettifogging loafers' names did not appear on the attorneys' roll; when the rights of a citizen were fairly, honestly, and without prejudice, fear, or favor, or affection, determined; when litigants went into court with confidence of having the law administered to them in its purity, and when justice and the law emanated from our judicial tribunals, and the weakest citizen felt safe in the hands of the law, as though he was a social or financial giant. It is true, it has been some years since those things were common in the courts of this city, still many yet living, and who are not even old, recollect them.

Judge Pettit soon convinced the mere case lawyer, the legal shyster and pettifogging coxcomb, that he was entirely out of his element in his court; that he had read too much law and adjudicated too many cases to be in the least influenced by any assertions such fellows could make. He decided the law at once, and that ended it. He held the attorneys strictly to the issues in the case, to the supreme disgust of the gassy and the overwhelming discomfort of those employed in small and mean legal business. By his clear statements of the law, and his careful recollection of the facts, he confounded the quibbler and overthrew the professional trickster. Never did a Judge in so short a time win so many friends and become so deservedly popular. We have heard our citizens offer from one to five hundred dollars each, to assist in paying the salary, if such a Judge could be secured to preside, all the time, over our courts. The contrast from what our courts generally are, and what when presided over by this venerable Supreme Judge, was so great, so apparent and so striking that it became painful and alarming. Ordinarily, "confusion worse confounded," reigns in our court rooms during the time the Judge is on the bench. The lawyers, and officers; the litigants and witnesses; the bailiffs and spectators, all mingle up in one grand hotch-potch and a promiscuous scramble seems to be going on, in order to show who is the most adroit quibbler, the most ardent pettifogger, and the most cunning perverter of the pure channels in which the laws of the country run. Out of this, like a beautiful figure arising from chaos, springs at the bidding of Judge Pettit, the most perfect order. The transition was so palpable that it commanded the commendation of all the lawyers of the court, but started like hungry wolves scared from the remains of an anticipated victim, the pettifoggers trembled in silence.

It has been notorious in this community for many months that our courts are singularly under the influence of one certain unscrupulous firm of lawyers in this city. So common has this opinion become, and so alarming it is to all of our best citizens, that it occupies the attention of the social circle, is spoken of on the streets, and discussed by men everywhere. It is said that this firm brings to their aid professional jurors, has a system of packing the whole panel in their favor, and relies alone for success in a majority of cases placed in their hands, on their knowledge of the quibbles and quacks of the law, and their ability to deceive the Judge as to what the law is, and mystify the jury as to the evidence.

To show there is some foundation in fact, for those prevailing impressions among the best men of this city in relation to the matter and things as above stated, we shall continue this subject in a series of other articles.

OWING to a press on our columns to-day, we will have to defer the publication of some communications for a day or two. As soon as we get a little leisure, we will endeavor to answer all the interrogatories of "A Small Taxpayer," as best we can.

Abrupt Termination of a Big Case in the Circuit Court.

The famous case of the Robt. Lockridge heirs against Col. R. N. Hudson, which has been before the civil Circuit Court for several days past, came to an abrupt termination yesterday on the calling of the Court after dinner. Mr. Alex. McPherson, one of the jurors, was taken suddenly sick with dyspepsia at dinner time and could not appear in Court to discharge his duties. The lawyers would not agree to let the case go to the remaining eleven jurors, and Judge Pettit declared the case off for the time being and dismissed the jury.

This trial had proceeded so far that only one speech remained to be made, and now the case will have to be gone all over again, involving the county in a large expense. Verily, the delays of the law are beyond conception.—Journal.

The Journal should have said that the defendant desired to submit the case to the decision of the eleven remaining jurors, but the plaintiff's attorneys refused to do this, that the defendant in the first place was willing to try the case by the Court, but the plaintiff's Attorney's demanded a jury, and then refused to let eleven good and lawful men decide it, after they had heard all the evidence, and they had the closing argument, too. What they feared most, was the instructions of a Judge who knows what the law is, and the decision of an unpacked jury that could not be bamboozled by pettifogging lawyers.

LABORING men will be more benefited by making Terre Haute a great railroad center than any other class of our people. It will make us a great city and stimulate and uphold industry in all its branches. Let not working men be envious by the few wealthy drones into voting against the Southwestern Railroad enterprise.—Journal.

The Journal makes a mistake in endeavoring to array one class of our citizens against another, upon this railroad question. Unless this enterprise receives the aid of the men who have surplus capital, it cannot be built. It requires money to build railroads. To the building of a southwestern railroad, perhaps not ten men in this community object, but to building the Southwestern Railroad, there are, as the matter now stands, many and serious objections. At all events, it is right and proper to array one class of this community against the other, in the furthering of any public enterprise?

THE New York Leader, a journal which has been published for seventeen years, and during a portion of its career was one of the most brilliant newspapers in this country, has just expired. Its contributors have numbered some of the ablest Eastern writers; among them Henry J. Raymond, S. S. Cox, Lewis Gaylord Clark, John Brougham, Hackett, John Clancy, Charles L. Halpine, George Arnold, Henry Clapp, Edward Wilkins and George Woodbridge, whose papers, over the nom de plume of "Tom Quick," have made him widely known. During the whole period of its existence it was a violently local political paper, not one of the most elevated character, and this feature always stood in strong contrast with the brilliancy and ability of its literary, art, and dramatic departments. During the past few months, with a singular nobleness of spirit, it had devoted itself to the defense of the New York Ring. With the collapse of the Ring, the paper has collapsed, and there will be few who will regret it, however brilliant or able the paper may have been in other respects than political.

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Col. Williams owing Hughes, Denver and Peck \$10,000 they owe Williams \$2,200.92, for which he has judgment.

Colonel Williams has passed through a severe ordeal in the progress and trial of this case, but he is glad to know, and to be able to inform his friends, that he came out of it with flying colors.—La Fayette Dispatch.

Now and then, and rather too often, we find clergymen allowing themselves little sneering flings at the newspaper, it being literally true that there is not a great pulpit popularity to the establishment of which the journalists have not generally contributed. To a preacher may have the lumps of a Bonaparte, but bawls he ever so loudly he cannot be heard beyond the four walls of his tabernacle. It is the reporters who make a national or a cosmopolitan great man of him.—St. Joe Herald.

Four Evils.—Whoever habitually uses any alcoholic preparations as an "appetizer" will be likely to suffer from four evils, viz.: an overplus of food in the stomach, impaired ability to digest it, the pangs of dyspepsia, and a doctor's bill. DR. WALKER'S VEGETABLE VANGUARD BITTERS, the great Teetotal Restorative of the age, without overstimulating the palate or irritating the stomach, imparts a healthful appetite, promotes digestion, regulates the liver and bowels, purifies the blood, and thus, instead of entailing four evils, confers four inestimable benefits. 6d4w

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LETTERS ABOUT THE WEST.

Dr. Miller, one of the editors of THE BLADE, spent the past summer traveling through the West for the special purpose of gathering reliable information about the climate, the soil, the thought of emigrating or making investments, and the information on this subject, contained in the columns of THE BLADE from week to week—may enable such persons to avoid mistakes which a lifetime would hardly correct.

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