

# The Evening Gazette

HUDSON & ROSE, Proprietors.

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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 Humaston vs. McGregor, and Lockridge vs. Hudson. Both those 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 one 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 pelfing lawyers' names did not appear on the attorneys' roll; when the rights of a citizen were fairly, honestly, and without prejudice, or 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 tribunes, and the weakest citizen felt as safe in the hands of the law, as though he was a social 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 pelfing combox, 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 discomfiture 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 deserved 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 arrant pelfing, and the most cunning perverter of the pure channels in which the laws of the country run. Out of all 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 startled, like hungry wolves scared from the remains of an anticipated victim, the pelfingers trembled in silence.

It has been notorious in this community for many months that our courts are singularly under the influence of one certain unconscionable firm of lawyers in this city. So common has this opinion become, and so alarming is it 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 quirks 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 Tax-payer," as best we can.

Abrupt Termination of a Big Case in the Civil Circuit Court.

The famous case of the Robt. Lockridge heirs against Col. R. N. Hudson, before the civil Circuit Court for several days past, came to an abrupt termination yesterday, or the calling of the Court after dinner. Mr. Alex. McPherson, one of the jurors, was taken suddenly sick with erysipelas at dinner time and could not appear in Court to discharge his duties. The jurors would have 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 one species remained, and now

the case has to be gone all over again, involving the Court in a large expense. Verily, the delays of the law cannot be comprehended.—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 unpecked jury that could not be bamboozled by pelfing lawyers.

LaGrange 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 droves 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 objects, 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 W. Longfellow, S. S. Cox, Lewis Merriam, Clark, John Brown, Hackett, John Clancy, Charles L. Halpine, George Arnold, Henry Clapp, Edward Wilkins and George Woolridge, whose papers over the *som 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, in a single week, it has, it is said, lost its 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.

It is stated that Mr. Cameron has written a letter to Minister Curtin, at St. Petersburg, inviting him to explain why and wherefore he has mixed in the Pennsylvania political muddle adversely to the re-election of the foreign distinguished head of the Foreign Relations Committee. If Mr. Curtin's answer be not satisfactory to the "old fox," rumor has it that there will be a diplomatic vacancy at the Russian Court. We hope this is not true. The delicate diplomatic regulations which allow a Minister to endorse fraud, and become a party to a barefaced swindle, should not get into an unseemly twist over so harmless a peccadille as being opposed to the re-election of so pure and polished a politician as the Senatorial Committee on Foreign Affairs.—Indianapolis Journal.

Something Worth Saving.

For readers who are aware that they have a desire to test the fact, how much labor or research is often saved by such a table as the following, the work of one now in his grave. If "History is Poetry," then here is "poetry personified."

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