

Judge Henry Clay Caldwell

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ANNALS OF IOWA.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

JUDGE HENRY CLAY CALDWELL.

Our leading article is an interesting sketch of the life and public services of this distinguished jurist, from the pen of our always welcome correspondent, Hon. Edward H. Stiles, now of Kansas City. This excellent sketch is very full and complete in chronicling the labors and estimating the ability of the subject. Judge Caldwell was raised in Van Buren county, where he studied law and was admitted to the bar. He was chosen to represent that county in the Iowa House of Representatives during the session of 1860. He at once took a prominent position, serving as chairman of the judiciary committee. The House had no more active and influential member. He was a Republican, and his principal opponent on the floor was Hon. Thomas W. Clagett, a representative from Lee county. They generally were pitted against each other and at times the feeling which existed between them grew into great bitterness. One of the measures in which Judge Caldwell was much interested was a bill to reduce the rate of interest, which at that time was ten per cent. He sought to reduce it to six per cent., and in this matter was opposed by Clagett. One of his most distinguishing characteristics was his opposition to any measure which seemed calculated to increase State taxation. In this direction he was extremely conservative, and generally on the right side. Van Buren county would doubtless have kept him in one or the other branch of the State Legislature, but for the fact that he entered the army in 1861, where he served until he was appointed to the Federal judgeship. His military record was a splendid one and would have resulted doubtless in his promotion to a higher rank than that of Colonel if he had not been transferred to the judiciary. This admirable sketch of his life is illustrated with a fine steel portrait of Judge Caldwell, which was engraved especially for our pages. He was everywhere suc-

cessful, whether as a State legislator, a soldier, or upon the Federal bench. We take a high pleasure in thus presenting this record of his life.

DR. EDWIN JAMES.

We are indebted to Prof. L. H. Pammel, who fills the chair of botany at the Iowa State College, at Ames, for an exhaustive article on this early Iowa scientist. We have had occasion to allude to Dr. James in several numbers of *The Annals*, but more particularly in Vol. IV, pp. 233-234, where we published a brief sketch of his useful career. In this same number Mr. George Frazee, also of Burlington, speaks of him at some length in an article on a great Fugitive Slave Case, the trial of which was commenced in Burlington. There was utter failure from lack of testimony to remand the alleged fugitive to the officer. Dr. James took a prominent part in preparations for rescuing the negro, but this proved to be wholly unnecessary and the matter was settled without resort to violence, though there were men enough close by to have rescued the slave. How Dr. James opened his farm and built a house four miles west of Burlington, and how he died, we have stated elsewhere.

Dr. James, who was one of the first botanists of his day, was associated with Dr. John Torrey, and also with Dr. C. C. Parry. While his writings are also very valuable as showing the condition of the Indian tribes and the wild life west of the Missouri river, one of his principal claims to remembrance, which is so well set forth by Prof. Pammel, is his discovery of several species of trees and plants which were "new to science." We present engravings of several of these new species which will be welcomed by all students of botany, and which will soon find their way into the leading public libraries of the State. This article enables us to present much information in regard to Dr. James which is nowhere else accessible. The portrait which accompanies the first part of the article in the last *Annals*, was engraved from a miniature on ivory that had long been in possession of the family. He was an

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