varied and important matters in which he was retained. His political
career and public life and services are matters of our national history.

Horatio J. Stow came here from Lewis county, in this State, where
his father, Hon. Silas Stow, resided, and held the position of First Judge
of the Common Pleas and represented his district in 1812 and 1813 in
Congress. He settled at Lewiston and formed a partnership with Hon.
Bates Cooke, afterward Comptroller, and a man of very distinguished
standing in the State. Upon moving to Buffalo in 1833, he entered into
partnership with Joseph Clary, who at that time was largely engaged in
practice and was singularly skilful, judicious and administrative in all
the kinds of business belonging to and allied with the law. Judge Stow
continued actively engaged in his profession until 1839, when, upon the
organization of the Recorder’s court, he was appointed the first Recorder
of the city, which position he held about four years, but after that he did not
appear again at the bar. He administered the office of Recorder promptly,
impartially, with dispatch, accuracy and satisfaction. In his own mind,
the standard of an accomplished Judge was very high, and he always
seemed to aim to live up to its purity and completeness. In 1846 he was
chosen from Erie county as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention,
and in 1857, being then a resident of Niagara county, by the joint suf-
farges of both political parties, was elected to the State Senate from that
district. It was in the debates of the Constitutional Convention that Judge
Stow exhibited the qualities of the eloquent and learned statesman and
jurist, and acquired that just fame upon which his reputation stands.
His speech upon the question of legal reform was of this superiority and
intelligence, delivery and effect, and when in the Senate his speech upon
the canal question attracted universal attention. Judge Stow was an
earnest, sincere and reliable friend, governed by the most generous im-
pulses, and scorning all meanness or hypocrisy. His strict integrity and
independence, lifting him above all party ties, were eminently conspicu-
ous and worthy of imitation by the politicians of the present day.

Frederick P. Stevens was a member of the bar when he settled in
Buffalo in 1833, and well prepared for his profession. He was one of
the early Masters in Chancery in Western New York, and also a puisne
Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for many years, until in January,
1845, he was appointed the First Judge, and in June, 1847, was elected
County Judge under the constitution of 1846. Judge Stevens practiced
but little at the bar, but was known as a capable and accurate Master in
Chancery, a considerate and painstaking judicial officer, at Chambers,
and an honest and upright Judge. In 1856 he was elected Mayor of the
city and discharged the duties of that place with superior executive
ability. He was elected to the Assembly in 1863, and at once took a
prominent and useful position, particularly in regard to the interests of
Buffalo. Judge Stevens was a kind and genial gentleman, a firm and
true friend, and maintained the respect and consideration of his fellow citizens during his long and busy life.

Samuel Caldwell graduated at Cambridge, and practiced law several years in Buffalo, before he was appointed Surrogate of Erie county, in 1836. He was industrious in the practice of his profession, a good and safe counselor, but rather avoided the trial of causes at nisi prius. As a Surrogate, and in the performance of the duties of a Supreme Court Commissioner, and Master in Chancery for many years, he evidenced the possession of judicial ability of a high order. Mr. Caldwell was a man of large general information, studious, quiet and unostentatious, but recognized as a faithful and honorable member of the bar, and a citizen of influence and character.

Solomon G. Haven.—In the general practice of the law, as a counselor learned in the law, and an advocate before a jury, Mr. Haven was for many years pre-eminent at the Bar of Erie county. After a course of legal studies in the office of the late Governor, John Young, at Geneseo, he came to Buffalo in January, 1835, and entered the law office of Fillmore & Hall. On being admitted to the Bar in May following, he commenced practice alone, but the next year became a member of that firm, who then were largely engaged in business. Judge Hall retired from the firm in May, 1839, but Mr. Fillmore and Mr. Haven continued associated in active practice until the fall of 1847, when the former gentleman was elected Comptroller of the State, but Mr. Haven remained at the Bar until his death, in December, 1861. From the first Mr. Haven was eminently successful in his profession, gaining early a prominent position and ultimately attaining the front rank in the Bar of Western New York as a nisi prius lawyer. He brought to the study and the practice of the law a great intellect, most subtle and ingenious powers of investigation, a retentive memory and quick and active perceptions. He was a student and gathered and stored up the learning of his profession in all its various departments, and applied his learning to the actual case with unrivalled skill. His knowledge, his genial temperament, his probity and correct habits, excited universal admiration and were worthy of the emulation of all society. In business, and especially in the practice of the law, he exhibited extraordinary dexterity, shrewdness, vigor and understanding, at once sound, comprehensive and acute, guarded by a true regard for honor and integrity, and a heart constantly disposed to kind and charitable actions. In March, 1842, he was elected Mayor of Buffalo, and in June, 1843, was appointed District Attorney of the county, and discharged the duties of each position with sound discretion and marked ability. In 1850 he consented to become a candidate for election as a representative in Congress, influenced mainly by his desire to render efficient support to the administration of President Fillmore, his former partner. He was re-elected to Congress in 1852, and again in 1854, and was always distin-
guished in his character as a representative, for his honesty, industry and independent course upon all questions, acquiring great influence and reputation.

James Mullett, while residing in Chautauqua county was known as one of the ablest members of the Bar in Western New York. Upon moving to Buffalo in 1843, he entered at once into a large practice which he pursued with great success until his election as a Judge of the Supreme Court in 1847. Judge Mullett was a man of superior intellect and a thorough lawyer, and while at the Bar was eminent in his success in the trial of causes. In any case where principle was involved, where he felt that as an advocate he was asserting a right, or endeavoring to redress a wrong, his eloquence was of the highest order, and his arguments convincing, persuasive and unanswerable. He distinguished himself upon the bench by several opinions which will remain in the reports, unexcelled, as examples of judicial learning and logical conclusion. In 1823 and 1824, Judge Mullett represented Chautauqua county in the Assembly and in 1826 was appointed District Attorney of that county; but he had no political aspirations and through the rest of his life was devoted to his profession and to the administration of the law.

George P. Barker graduated at Union College in 1827, and the same year commenced the study of the law in the office of Stephen G. Austin, in Buffalo, with whom he became associated in business, upon his admission to the Bar in 1830. Before that time he had attracted public attention by his superior oratorical powers, manifested in the legal contests in the minor courts, and in his active participation in the political contests of the time. Not only had he risen to the front rank at the Bar, but became the acknowledged leader of the Democratic party and in 1831, at the age of twenty-four, was its candidate for the Assembly. In 1832 he was appointed District Attorney of the county, and in the discharge of the duties of the office, laid the foundation for a higher legal position. He was an unsuccessful candidate for Congress in 1834, but in 1835 was elected to the Assembly of the State, notwithstanding the fact that his party were in a large minority in the county. He acquired great legislative reputation and popularity while in the Assembly and took a leading position upon the important questions then exciting the public mind. In 1842 he was elected Attorney-General of the State, and honorably discharged the duties of his high position, and on his retirement was again appointed District Attorney of the county, which position he held until his death in 1848, at the early age of forty-one. Mr. Barker was distinguished by his commanding presence and winning and courteous manner; in personal popularity he was, perhaps, without a rival in the State. He was a ready and eloquent speaker, who felt and made others feel what he asserted, yet he was none the less a well-read lawyer and an able and judicious counselor.
Nathan K. Hall, was born in Onondaga county in 1810, but moved to the town of Wales, in Erie county, in 1826, and immediately entered the office of Millerd* Fillmore, in Aurora, as a law student. When Mr. Fillmore moved to Buffalo, in 1830, Judge Hall came with him, and continued his studies until he was admitted in 1832, and soon after that, formed a partnership with Mr. Fillmore. Probably no man in Erie county held more public positions than Judge Hall, or with more entire satisfaction to the community. In 1839, he was appointed Master in Chancery and in 1841, First Judge of the Common Pleas. In 1845 he was elected Member of Assembly, and in 1847 represented Erie county in Congress. Mr. Fillmore having assumed the Presidential chair, on the death of President Taylor in 1850, Judge Hall was appointed Postmaster-General, and continued to hold that position until 1852, when he received the appointment of Judge of the District Court for the Western district of New York, which place he continued until his death in March, 1874.

During all these years, Judge Hall was intimately connected with the most important institutions of Buffalo; for many years president of the Buffalo Female Academy and one of the trustees of Wells College at Aurora, Cayuga county. He was president of the board of trustees of the Normal School, and also president of the Buffalo Historical Society, and always an active and influential member. The industry, capacity and learning of Judge Hall in every position in which he was placed, were remarkable. His patience, kindness and dignity upon the bench, as a Judge, were proverbial, and in all public positions, and in the walks of private life, his bearing was eminently that of an intelligent, conscientious, just and worthy man.

Henry K. Smith, one of the most gifted and eloquent members of the Bar of the State of New York, was born on the Island of Santa Cruz, where his father, an English gentleman, was largely engaged as a planter. At the age of seven years, he was sent to Baltimore for the purpose of being educated, and after remaining many years, concluded to study law at Johnstown in this State, and was admitted to the Bar in 1833. He then settled in Buffalo and by his fine abilities, soon took rank among the most successful lawyers in Western New York. In 1843 he was appointed Recorder of Buffalo and held that judicial position four years. In 1848, unexpectedly to himself, he was appointed Postmaster and in March, 1850, elected Mayor of the city of Buffalo, filling these several stations with fidelity and ability. In all the political contests of the time, Judge Smith took an active and influential part. As an advocate at the Bar and as a public speaker, especially upon the leading topics of the time, he was gifted with an eloquence which was surpassed by that of few speakers in the State or nation. He was self-

* It is a fact not generally known, perhaps, that Mr. Fillmore in the early years of his life, spelled his given name with an "e."
possessed in a remarkable degree; his mind was richly stored and cultivated; his manner, alike commanding and winning; his carriage, graceful and manly; his eye, beaming with fires of genius and intellect; his voice, clear and sonorous, and his elocution surpassed by few living orators. These were gifts and accomplishments which he possessed in a remarkable degree, and which, if he had so willed, would have secured him any position to which he might have aspired. As a lawyer, he was well versed in the principles of law and equity; a diligent student and commanded the attention and respect of courts and juries. The last few years of his life, he withdrew from active practice and died at Buffalo in September, 1854.

Israel T. Hatch, came to Buffalo about 1830, well prepared for the duties of his profession, and soon acquired an honorable position at the Bar. He was appointed Surrogate of the county in January, 1833, the duties of which position he discharged with admirable judicial fairness and ability. Mr. Hatch did not remain long in practice, but was distinguished for his general understanding of all branches of his profession. He engaged in business enterprises, and as a politician and public spirited citizen, attained great reputation and influence. In 1852 he was elected to the Assembly, and at that time and always thereafter, was an ardent supporter of the canal policy of the State of New York. He was elected as a representative in Congress in 1856, and occupied an influential position as regards all matters of national policy. Mr. Hatch was a courteous gentleman, possessing fine literary tastes and well educated, and to the time of his death, exerted a commanding influence in the community.

Wells Brooks, practiced law at Springville for many years, and was a life-long resident of Erie county. The later years of his life were passed in Buffalo, in the quiet discharge of the trusts and duties of various public positions. Mr. Brooks was a lawyer of good reputation, faithful to his clients, candid and sincere, and deservedly occupied a good position at the Bar. For many years, he was a leading member of the Board of Supervisors, and looked upon as authority in all affairs of importance to the county. He was elected to the Assembly in 1836 and again in 1843 and exerted considerable influence in the Legislature. In 1849 he was elected county clerk and admirably conducted the affairs connected with that position.

Edward S. Warren during a residence in Buffalo of nearly thirty years, maintained a position of high social and business prominence. He graduated at Middlebury College, in 1833, and soon after came to Buffalo and pursued a course of legal studies in the office of Hon. Israel T. Hatch, and upon being admitted to the bar, became the law partner of the Hon. Henry K. Smith. In his professional career, Mr. Warren displayed legal attainments of a high order, and achieved an honorable
standing at the bar. His spirit of practical enterprise, made the dull routine of professional life distasteful to him, and he embarked largely in business affairs, which he conducted with sagacity and success. He was an accomplished gentleman and an intelligent and valued citizen.

James Crocker, settled in Buffalo about 1835, and practiced until his death in 1861. He was a quiet and unassuming gentleman, of unblemished character, and an excellent member of society. For several years he was a Master in Chancery, and held various minor offices and positions of trust, and discharged the duties of all positions with fairness and ability. His practice of the law was mainly confined to the routine of his office, as a counsellor, and he rarely appeared before the courts.

Peter M. Vorburgh, practiced law at Aurora, several years, and on moving to Buffalo, was engaged in a large business until his appointment as surrogate of Erie county in January, 1845. He was elected to the same position in 1847, serving in all, nearly six years, with great honor and satisfaction to the community. In 1855, he was elected county clerk and showed excellent administrative ability in the discharge of the duties of that position. During a professional life of over thirty years, he was known as a safe counselor, slow and candid in forming opinions and firm in his own convictions of right and justice. He was a citizen of influence and always respected for his integrity and exemplary life.

James Stryker, was in active practice in Buffalo for several years before he was appointed First Judge of the Common Pleas in 1837, which position he held until 1841. He was a jurist of superior reputation, and stood high as a lawyer of ability, but he was an ardent politician, and, devoting himself to the political controversies of the day, never acquired in his profession, the place to which otherwise he would have been entitled. When the general government decided upon the plan of removing the Indians of the State, to the northwest territory, President Jackson appointed Judge Stryker, as the commissioner to negotiate a treaty with the Six Nations. He was eminently successful, and the Cayugas and a large part of the Senecas, Oneidas and Onondagas, emigrated to other places. After leaving Buffalo he settled near New York and published the American Register for several years, a work of authority and reference.

Benjamin H. Austin, Sr., settled in Buffalo shortly after his admission to the bar in Saratoga county, and continued in a large and active practice until his death in July, 1874. He possessed many remarkable traits of character, and was gifted with that natural logical acumen, intuitive sense of right and justice, calmness and deliberation, and great intellectual vigor, which adapted him to the requirements of his profession. He made the study and practice of the law the arduous business of his life, and achieved success beyond many, if not most of his compeers, by industry, integrity and patience. The practice of the law in his hands, was what
it ever is in the hands of those who are worthy of its privileges; not the instrument of oppression, the trickery of fraud, but the shield against injustice, the protection of the innocent, and the terror of the fraudulent and the criminal. He will be remembered for the zeal, the earnestness, the vigor which it was always his habit to bring to the discharge of his duties, manifesting to every one and in all instances, an unyielding faithfulness and constant courage for his client, and his client’s cause. Mr. Austin’s life was exemplary. Beneficent and kind to all with whom he was associated, he was also a friend to every good cause, and in his own life afforded the living example of a worthy man and citizen. He was elected district attorney of the county in 1847, and faithfully served his term of office, but held no other public position. His son, Benjamin H. Austin, Jr., after many years of active professional life in Buffalo, removed to the Sandwich Islands, hoping to benefit his health, and is now one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of that kingdom.

Seth E. Sill was born in Saratoga county, and having completed his legal education in the office of Thomas T. Sherwood, in Buffalo, was admitted to the Bar in 1836. He subsequently was in partnership with George P. Barker, which relation terminated on Mr. Barker being chosen Attorney-General of the State, and subsequently Mr. Sill continued the practice alone, until he was elected a Judge of the Supreme Court in 1847. He continued on the Bench until his death in September, 1851, at the early age of 42 years. At the Bar, Judge Sill was distinguished as being an able, accurate and conscientious lawyer and attained a deservedly high rank in his profession. In his death, the Bench of the State lost one of its brightest ornaments. Throughout the State he had become known and esteemed as a learned and able jurist, and he left a lasting impression upon the judicial history of the State. If he was distinguished for one quality more than another, it was for his unblemished and unbending integrity as a man and a Judge.

Asher P. Nichols acquired a legal education in the office of Hon. George W. Clinton, and was admitted to the Bar in 1837. He continued in active practice until his death in May, 1886. Mr. Nichols was a painstaking, industrious lawyer, well versed in the theory and practice of his profession and of superior ability as an advocate. He had a thorough appreciation of the dignity of his profession and achieved an excellent standing at the Bar. In 1867 he was elected to the Senate of the State, of which body he was an influential member, and in June, 1870, was appointed Comptroller of the State. In both of these positions he exhibited marked administrative ability and that faithful discharge of duty characteristic of him as a lawyer. Mr. Nichols was a gentleman of fine literary tastes, affable and courteous, and recognized as an influential member of society.

Henry W. Rogers practiced law with great success at Bath, Steuben county for several years before he moved to Buffalo in 1836, and con-
continued identified with the profession until about 1872. During all this
time Mr. Rogers was one of the most prominent members of the Bar in
Western New York, and recognized as an able counselor and successful
advocate. In 1837 he was appointed District Attorney of Erie county
and served in that office with signal ability and faithfulness until 1844.
In 1844 he was appointed by President Polk to the position of Collector
of Customs of the port of Buffalo, which place he held four years. The
later years of his life were spent in foreign travel and the enjoyment of
his cultured tastes, and he died at Ann Arbor, Michigan, in March, 1880,
having resided there on account of his health for several years. He
always exercised a large and good influence in society, and was promi-
nent in the support of all measures designed to enhance the public good.
He was one of the founders and a liberal benefactor of the Academy of
Fine Arts and of the Buffalo Historical Society; succeeding Mr. Fill-
more as president of these institutions.

Eli Cook.—During the time he was in active practice, no member of
the Bar of Western New York enjoyed a greater reputation than Mr.
Cook, especially for his success as a criminal lawyer. He studied law at
Utica, and was a partner of the late Judge Denio, but moved to Buffalo
in 1838, and at once took a high position, which he maintained as long as
health permitted him to practice. His power over the feelings and sym-
pathies of juries was due to natural eloquence rather than to deep and
well digested argument, yet he had few superiors in the art of present-
ing a case clearly and without unnecessary rhetoric. He was a lawyer of
the old school, an eloquent advocate, truthful in his statements and a
genial, courteous and amiable gentleman. In 1853 he was elected Mayor
of Buffalo, and re-elected in 1854 for two years. Previously he had
served as City Attorney and his administration of these offices reflects
honor upon his memory.

Horatio Seymour, Jr., after receiving a collegiate education at Mid-
dlebury College, studied his profession at Syracuse, and was admitted
to the bar. He settled in Buffalo in 1836 and secured a considerable
practice in his profession, which he carried on until his death in Septem-
ber, 1872. Mr. Seymour held the important office of a Master in Chan-
cery for many years and represented Erie county in the Assembly of
1863 and also in 1864. He acquired reputation and influence as a legis-
lator, and was faithful to the interests of his constituents. In 1867 he
was elected Surrogate of Erie county and showed marked judicial ability
in that position. Mr. Seymour was an ardent politician, and his strong
political feelings as well as his fine talents and oratorical abilities, gave
him a decidedly influential position in the community.

Joseph G. Masten settled in Buffalo in 1836, having been in practice
for some years at Bath, Steuben county, and at once acquired a large
and important legal business. In 1848 he was chosen Recorder of the
city, the duties of which judicial office he discharged with great credit, and in 1856 was elected as a Judge of the Superior Court, which position he held until his death, in April, 1871. In 1843 he was elected Mayor of the city and re-elected in 1845. Judge Masten was an influential member of the State Constitutional Convention in 1867, as a delegate at large, and served on the Judiciary Committee. In every position to which he was appointed or called by the people, Judge Masten discharged the duties assumed with an ability and fidelity which commanded the respect of all parties. As a lawyer and a Judge he occupied a high rank and was recognized as a sound and enlightened jurist.

Isaac A. Verplanck.—At the time of his death in 1873, he was the Chief Judge of the Superior Court of Buffalo, having been a Judge of that court from its organization in the year 1834. He graduated at Union College, and in 1831 settled at Batavia, in the practice of the law and acquired prominence at the bar before his removal to Buffalo in 1847. At once he took a leading position and carried on a successful business until elected to the bench of the Superior Court. Throughout his judicial life, Judge Verplanck was distinguished as being one of the most enlightened and sagacious Judges who ever presided in nisi prius courts. It was there, in the trial of causes, that he manifested the greatest learning and comprehension of the general, well-established principles of law and equity; quick to apply the law to the facts, with intuitively correct perceptions, favoring no one and submitting the whole case fairly and justly to the jury. He was a man of great and comprehensive intellectual powers, naturally a logician, and pre-eminently fitted to occupy a judicial station. In 1838 he was appointed District Attorney of Genesee county, and re-appointed in 1846. In the Constitutional Convention of 1867, as a delegate from Erie county, he exerted a great and conservative influence, not alone out of the natural respect for his ability and conceded integrity, but by reason of those distinguishing amiable and genial traits of character, ever overflowing, which made him always, in whatever circle, a beloved leader of men.

William H. Greene was born near Boston, Mass., August 31, 1812, and entered Dartmouth College at the age of fifteen, graduating with the highest honors. He studied law at Skaneateles, N. Y., with the late Vice-Chancellor, Lewis H. Sanford, and after his admission to the Bar came to Buffalo in 1837, and formed a co-partnership with Thomas T. Sherwood, who was at that time conducting a large business of a litigated character. James Sheldon was a partner in the firm in 1843, and continued associated with Mr. Greene until his appointment as County Judge, in 1852. Mr. Greene continued the practice of the law until his death, in April, 1882, having various partners, among whom was Hon. William C. Bryant; but during the last few years of his life the burden of his extensive business was shared by his sons, Messrs. John B., and
Harry B. Greene. For over forty-six years Mr. Greene was extensively engaged in the practice of the law in Buffalo, and during all that time was conspicuously identified with the business interests of the city and the various institutions which are its pride and boast. He was one of the early and liberal friends of the Young Men's Association while struggling in the infancy of its existence, and served as its president in 1843. For many years he was an active member and officer of the Historical Society, and its president in 1872, and also acted as a trustee of the State Normal School; but he never sought political honor or distinction. He was a man of rare endowments, both natural and acquired. As a lawyer he was in an eminent degree scholastic and learned; indefatigable, persistent and courageous; frank and courteous to his opponents; unwaveringly loyal to his convictions and gifted with an innate nobleness and elevation of character. He possessed a high sense of honor and a kind heart, which earnestly sympathized with the sorrows and anxieties of his fellow men. Although never an advocate, he was an accomplished and thoroughly equipped counselor, deeply read, not only in the literature of his profession, but in nearly every branch of learning that could add to his power and influence as a lawyer before the courts of last resort. He belonged to the old school of lawyers and always regretted the changes and innovations made in the system of administering the law by the constitution of 1846. During all his life Mr. Greene was a valued and influential citizen and possessed, in person and character, distinctive and marked qualities that impressed him with the stamp of an original, sturdy and gifted man.

Jesse Walker graduated at Middlebury College, and after pursuing a course of legal studies at Rochester, N. Y., settled in Buffalo in 1835, where he resided until his death, in September, 1852. For many years he gave an almost undivided attention to the duties of the office of Master in Chancery, but at times was engaged in the active practice of his profession. Judge Walker was a man of fine literary tastes and acquired considerable celebrity as a finished scholar. In 1851 he was elected County Judge, and during the short time he was in office discharged the position to the great satisfaction of the Bar.

Benoni Thompson practiced law at Buffalo for many years before his death, in November, 1858. He gave his time almost entirely to office business and the confidential affairs of clients, and had a good reputation as a counselor. In the Assembly of 1849 he creditably represented Erie county, and was considered a safe and judicious member of the Legislature. For many years he acted as assignee in bankruptcy, under the Federal act of 1841, and conducted the varied and important duties of that position with general satisfaction.

Charles D. Norton graduated with high honors at Union College, in 1839, and commenced the study of the law with Horatio Shumway.
Owing to a continuance of ill health, he was not admitted to the Bar until 1843, and entered upon an active practice which continued until his election as Surrogate of Erie county in 1851. While at the Bar Mr. Norton showed great capacity as an advocate, and an intuitive appreciation of the principles of the common law; but his health prevented that entire devotion to the profession which alone can ensure great success. The law is a jealous mistress and demands the undivided attention of those who seek to win her favors. Mr. Norton conducted the affairs of the Surrogate's office with good administration and judicial ability, and afterwards was engaged in various positions of trust and the management of estates. In 1865 he was appointed by President Johnson to the position of Collector of the Port of Buffalo, and continued to discharge the duties of this important office in a highly satisfactory manner until his death in 1867.

Mr. Norton was greatly interested in the literary institutions of the city and in all public enterprises to promote the good of society, and will long be remembered as a genial, courteous gentleman, possessing a commanding influence in the community.

James G. Hoyt had attained prominence in the practice of his profession in Genesee county, before he was elected a Judge of the Supreme Court in 1847. He was, in every sense of the word, a self-made man, winning his way, step by step, from one position of honor and responsibility to another, and most ably and satisfactorily discharging the duties of all, with eminent professional learning, ability and virtue. His clients felt that no efforts of his would be spared, no exertion omitted, to protect their interests or vindicate their rights. He carried the same devotion to duty on the Bench, and inspired like confidence in the public mind in the discharge of his official duties. As a man, a lawyer and a Judge, he was particularly distinguished for his uniform courtesy, his purity of life, his ability and entire conscientiousness in the discharge of every public and private duty. Judge Hoyt resided in Buffalo and continued to serve as a Judge of the Supreme Court for several years before his death, in October, 1863.

Albert Sawin practiced law at Aurora many years, with great success, before he moved to Buffalo. Gifted by nature with a vigorous intellect, quick sympathies, a generous heart and strong physical constitution, he devoted them all to the law. Able and acute before the Bench, eloquent and persuasive before a jury, he was, in his time, one of the most eminent and successful of lawyers. He was elected District Attorney of the county in 1853, and performed the duties of the position with great integrity and zeal; and continued in active practice until his untimely death in January, 1863, in the prime of life and reputation. Mr. Sawin was a remarkable character, learned as a lawyer, influential as a citizen, positive in his convictions, but attached to his profession and particularly devoted to the trial of causes before a jury. Before that tribunal, in the
management of the trial, he had no superior, either in regard to his lucid and pointed expositions of the law to the court, or in the examination of witnesses or the arguments to the jury.

John Ganson was one of the most eminent lawyers the State ever produced. From the time he entered upon his profession to the hour of his death, he gave to it with loyal devotion the best energies of his mind and nature. He was not an advocate, but a jurist, whose arguments were listened to by the highest tribunals as being learned expositions of the law. He died September 28, 1874, at the age of fifty-four, being attacked by apoplexy while engaged in the trial of an important cause before the Superior Court. Mr. Ganson represented Erie county in the State Senate, and in 1862, was elected as a representative in Congress, in which position he was known as a War Democrat, supporting the war measures of President Lincoln's administration during the critical session of 1863 and 1864, and gaining for himself a national reputation. He never sought political honors or office, for his tastes seem to be averse to public life, but looked to his profession for his just and enduring fame. Mr. Ganson was a gentleman of the purest personal character, in whose honor, integrity and patriotism, the community reposed the utmost confidence.

Thomas C. Welch pursued a course of legal studies in the law office of Hall & Bowen and was admitted to the Bar in 1846. He was diligent and earnest in the practice, acquiring a very respectable position at the Bar, and gave promise of attaining eminence, when his untimely death occurred in 1864. The practice in the Courts of Admiralty engaged his attention to a great degree. Mr. Welch was a gentleman of fine tastes and large literary cultivation, but was devoted to his profession. In the preparation of his cases for trial and the conduct of his law business, he showed great patience and industry and a just appreciation of the principles of law and equity jurisprudence.

John C. Strong graduated at Yale College in 1842 and after being admitted to the Bar, settled in Buffalo, in 1850, continuing in practice until his death in July, 1879. Mr. Strong was a man of decided legal ability, and widely read and informed outside of his profession. As a lawyer he was painstaking, devoted to his clients and zealous in their behalf. His character was of the positive order, and if he ever swerved from a conviction, it was in recognition of some reason superior to that he had maintained. In the preparation and trial of cases, he exhibited untiring industry and zeal, fully comprehending the law and facts of the case, and always supported by an array of authorities which he deemed applicable and conclusive.

Albert P. Laning was admitted to the Bar in 1845 and practiced for several years in Allegany county, but moved to Buffalo, in 1855, and continued in a large and active practice until his death in September, 1880. Though always engaged in an extensive and lucrative business,
Mr. Laning acquired much reputation in the State as a politician, and represented Erie county in the Assembly in 1858, and was elected a Senator in 1874. In the Legislature he was known for his industry and intelligent interest in the important matters of legislation which were under consideration. At the Bar Mr. Laning was justly recognized as one of the most learned and indefatigable lawyers in the State, especially as an earnest and successful advocate, and no man connected with the profession ever won his success and fame by methods and means so purely intellectual. For many years he was the attorney of the New York Central and other railroads, and was pre-eminent for his knowledge of corporation law, as well as for his general learning in all branches of his profession.

James M. Willett studied and practiced law at Batavia, Genesee county, and was admitted to the Bar in 1855. He acquired an excellent reputation in that county and was elected District Attorney in 1859, but soon after the opening of the war of the rebellion took an active part in raising volunteers for the defense of the Union, and in 1862 entered the service and participated in many of the hard-fought battles in which the army of the Potomac was engaged. Colonel Willett was severely wounded at Cold Harbor, receiving injuries of a lasting character; but he again joined his regiment and continued in service until the close of the war. In 1870 he moved to Buffalo and formed a partnership with Hon. A. P. Laning, which continued until his death in June, 1877. Colonel Willett was a splendid combination of moral, intellectual and social qualities; a strong and symmetrical character into which entered all the elements of a true and noble manhood. As a soldier he was brave and fearless in the discharge of duty and made a brilliant record for himself as an officer of the Union army; as a lawyer, both as counsel and advocate, he was the peer of any member of the Bar; as a man of affairs he was an example of energy, industry and uprightness, and as a gentleman he was a model of courtesy. A most brilliant career was before him, when his health failed in the prime of life, and at the early age of forty-five, the profession and community were called upon to mourn his loss.

Aaron Salisbury was one of the pioneers of Erie county and resided in the town of Evans. For many years he was one of the Judges of the Common Pleas, and noted for his urbanity and integrity. Judge Salisbury represented the county in the Assembly in 1840, and was a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1846. In public and private life he was recognized as a citizen of intelligence and estimable character.

Rollin Germain studied law in Buffalo and was admitted to the Bar about 1833, but was never devoted to his profession. At one time he was engaged in extensive practice and acquired a good reputation as a counselo, but he was better known as a man of affairs and general business. Mr. Germain was highly educated and endowed with great
intellectual taste, which was manifested in many of his lectures and contributions to the papers of the day. He represented Erie county in the Assembly of 1854 and took a prominent part in the questions before the Legislature, giving patient and intelligent consideration to such as demanded his particular attention. He was an upright and influential citizen and a valued member of the community.

William H. Gurney studied law in the office of Humphrey & Parsons in Buffalo, and was admitted to the Bar in 1861. He practiced alone until in the fall of 1863, when he became a partner with Henry W. Box, Esq., with whom he was associated about five years in the successful prosecution of an extended legal business. He then formed a partnership with Hon. L. L. Lewis, now one of the Judges of the Supreme Court, which continued until 1879, after which he practiced alone until his death in November, 1881. Mr. Gurney was eminently an upright man, untiring in his industry and devotion to the law, and an intelligent counselor. He knew no such thing as fail, until every honorable means had been exhausted to convince a court and jury that his client's cause was just, and as was often remarked, hardly another attorney in Western New York, obtained such flattering results in the courts of last resort. Few lawyers of his time gave clearer evidence of ability and a general comprehension of the law, or obtained a higher place in public esteem. In private life he was a kind and true friend, sympathizing with all who were in adversity and generous as well as charitable in his judgment of others. Mr. Gurney was president of the Young Men's Association in 1878, and always warmly interested in its success, and also a friend of the other public institutions of the city.

Dennis Bowen was born at Aurora, Erie county, February 4, 1820, and having received a common school education, entered the law office of Fillmore, Hall & Haven, as a student, and was admitted to the Bar in 1842. The same year, he formed a partnership with Hon. N. K. Hall, and continued in the active practice of his profession, with different partners, until his death in April, 1877, having for many years the largest personal clientele ever commanded by any member of the legal profession in Buffalo. He rarely appeared in the courts, taking no prominent part before them; yet he was recognized by the Bar as one of the most learned and able counselors. Mr. Bowen, through his whole life was one of the upright, valuable and respected citizens of Buffalo; known to almost every man in the community; the successful legal adviser of a large number of business houses and corporations, and their trusted, faithful friend. He had a generous and loyal regard for the right, and always advised his clients with regard to the equities of the interests involved, rather than to mere legal points, and possessed a happy faculty of reconciling conflicting interests upon terms equitable and honorable to all parties. He was foremost in everything that makes
a good lawyer, a good citizen and a good man, and for over thirty years occupied a prominent position as a man of affairs, honorable to himself and useful to society. Mr. Bowen was a member of the City and County Hall Commission during the erection of that edifice, and also one of the Board of Park Commissioners, and a generous friend of all the public institutions of the city.

Perry G. Parker was born in Hamburg, Erie county, and having graduated at Union College in 1841, pursued the study of the law with Messrs. Fillmore & Haven, and was admitted to the Bar in 1844. From that time until shortly before his death in December, 1879, he was in constant, active practice of the law. He was an earnest lover of his profession, well read in the law and practice, and combining in his person many of the best and most successful qualities of the advocate and counselor. Mr. Parker had a wonderful aptitude for business, which was especially manifested in litigations and settlements of estates in the Surrogate's Courts. As a citizen, he was a friend of the institutions that grace and dignify the city, and was recognized as a man of influence and character.

Hiram Barton came to Buffalo in 1835 and was for many years in active practice. He rarely appeared in the courts, but was deservedly esteemed as a counselor in the business of his clients. In 1849 he was elected Mayor of Buffalo, and re-elected in 1852, and was regarded as one of the most discreet and upright of the chief magistrates of the city. Mr Barton filled many minor positions of trust and importance, and was recognized as a man of great influence and standing in the community.

Charles E. Clark, though never prominent at the Bar, was connected with the practice of law in Buffalo for over thirty years. He devoted a large portion of his time and energies to the benevolent and literary institutions of the city, and was mainly instrumental in founding the Female Academy and the General Hospital. To his efforts must be ascribed the conception of the beautiful Forest Lawn and its adaptation to the purposes of a cemetery. In private life he was a most estimable and influential citizen.

George W. Houghton was born in Vermont, and settled Buffalo in 1837. The next year he was admitted to the Bar and continued engaged in the practice of his profession until he was elected Recorder in 1852. In 1854 he was placed upon the Bench of the Superior Court by the act organizing that Court, and served for two years. Judge Houghton occupied a conspicuous position at the Bar and socially for many years. He was distinguished for his painstaking accuracy and familiarity with adjudged cases, and ranked as a good counselor in the business of his clients.

Albert L. Baker came to Buffalo from Washington county in 1835, and studied law with Stephen G. Austin, and was admitted to the Bar in 1838. He then returned to Washington county and was elected a Judge
of the Common Pleas; and was a delegate from that county to the Constitutional Convention of 1846. In 1848 he returned to Buffalo and continued in active practice to the time of his death in May, 1873. Judge Baker was a man of integrity and learning and possessed of judicial abilities of a high order. In the law of real estate, especially, was he well versed, but he was a thorough scholar in all general principles of jurisprudence. He took an active part in educational matters, and while serving as an alderman in the Council, was the author and promoter of the plan for the founding of the Central School in Buffalo.

John Hubbell—No member of the Bar of Erie county was more prominent in his time, or held in higher esteem than Mr. Hubbell. He was born in Canandaigua and studied law in the office of the late Mark H. Sibley, and was admitted to the Bar about 1843. The same year he came to Buffalo and soon secured a large practice and was elected City Attorney for 1854, which was the only political office he ever held. During his professional career he was connected with the most important cases of the time, and was recognized throughout the State as a very able lawyer, well versed in legal principles and always clear, logical and forcible in his arguments. His mind and temperament were eminently judicial, and had he acceded to the wishes of his friends, he would have been elevated to high positions upon the Bench; but as a referee in cases of intricacy and importance, he was a favorite, as the Bar and community reposed great confidence in his integrity, fairness and learning. Mr. Hubbell was a lover of choice literature; a gentleman of fine social qualities, genial and remarkably kind-hearted, and greatly interested in the institutions of the city.

Austin A. Howard was at one time the law partner of Heman B. Potter, and largely engaged in law practice and real estate transactions for over twenty years. He was a man of ability and had a general knowledge of affairs, but rarely appeared in the courts. In all questions relating to the law of real estate his opinion was considered as reliable as that of any member of the Bar.

Reuben Bryant was born at Templeton, Worcester county, Mass., July 13, 1792. He graduated with honors at Brown University, R. I., about the year 1815. After some time spent in teaching he removed to Livingston county, N. Y., and studied law in the office of the late Judge Smith, in Caledonia. Having been admitted to the Supreme Court, he settled in Holley, Orleans county, where he commenced the practice of his profession and was the pioneer lawyer. In the fall of 1849 he removed to Albion, and in 1855 migrated to Buffalo to aid his only son, William C. Bryant, who had recently opened a law office in that city. He was appointed Master in Chancery by Gov. Wright, an office he held when the Court of Chancery was abolished under the Constitution of 1846. He was a thorough classical scholar and a profound and indefatigable stu-