

Death of Judge Purple.

It is with pain that we record the death of Hon. NORMAN H. PURPLE of this city, which occurred at the Sherman House, Chicago, on Sunday morning. The Judge was in the 57th year of his age. His funeral will take place from the family residence at ten o'clock, this morning.

Judge Purple was born in Litchfield county, Connecticut, and with his father removed to New York, near the Pennsylvania line, where he remained until he arrived at the age of manhood. He then began the study of law in Tioga county, Pennsylvania, was admitted to the bar, and in 1836 removed to Illinois and settled in Peoria. In 1837 he was appointed prosecuting attorney for the 9th judicial circuit which then included almost the whole county northeast of Peoria to the State line — He continued in the practice of his profession, and stood as one of the first lawyers of the day, when Gov. Ford on the 8th of August 1845 appointed him Judge of the judicial district, which then composed all the counties lying west of Peoria, his residence whilst Judge being at Quincy, Illinois. At the time of his appointment as judge the Supreme Court was composed of all the district judges under the old constitution, being then ten, and a portion of the time but nine in number, and were required to perform a large amount of labor.

The opinions of the Judge whilst on the bench were distinguished for their legal learning, clearness and deep research, and no Judge has ever sat upon the Supreme bench of this State whose opinions and decisions are entitled to or receive from the bench and the bar more credit and esteem than those of Judge Purple. He continued upon the bench until the new Constitution was adopted and went into effect which was on the first of April, A. D. 1848, when he returned to Peoria and resumed the practice of his profession, and so continued until his death. He was also a member of the Constitutional Convention which met in Springfield to frame a new Constitution in 1860. In 1848 he compiled the real estate statutes of Illinois, and in 1857, compiled the general statutes of Illinois denominated "Purple's Statutes," and has been since that time engaged in compiling and arranging the general statutes of this State passed subsequently to the year 1867 including the sessions of the legislature of

1861, 1862 and 1863. He has bestowed great labor and care in making an entire new index to all the laws now in force, and it is expected that the same will be ready for the press at an early day. No man ever enjoyed a higher reputation as a man or a lawyer than Judge Purple.

For the last eight or ten years he has been in constant attendance at the terms of the United States Circuit Court, at Chicago, and the sittings of the Supreme Court of this State, at Ottawa, where his clear legal mind, dignity of mien and unswerving integrity to his profession and clients, command the respect of all who saw and heard him, and placed him upon the topmost round of his profession.

Although great in his profession, yet, he was none the less a lover of his country. He was a true patriot. When the war broke out he was among the first to place himself upon the side of his country.—Eschewing all party, he always gave the administration his hearty support in all its measures to crush the rebellion—dealing death blows in all he said or wrote to the rebels and their sympathizers. Although prostrate with disease, yet he eagerly read the record of our late victories with a joyful countenance and feelings mingled with pride and satisfaction, and manifested great desire to his friends that he might live to see the rebellion suppressed, and the country restored to peace and quiet. He leaves a widow and five children to mourn his loss.