

DEATH OF LYMAN TRUMBULL.

The long and honorable career of Lyman Trumbull was closed by death yesterday morning in the 83d year of his age, as was announced in the extra edition of THE TRIBUNE. Whatever difference of opinion may exist as to his political action, no one will question the honesty of motive which actuated him any more than the exalted purity of his private life. He was originally a Democrat, until his party repealed the Missouri Compromise in 1854, when he left that party and joined the Republicans, because his sense of duty would not allow him to act with the slavery extension party. He was an active and influential Republican until he "Greeleyized" in 1872 and refused to support Gen. Grant for reelection. No one in either party will question that he was inspired in each case by his conceptions of principle. Men of both parties will therefore mourn his loss, though he had lived to a good old age, and the whole State will regret the death of one of its most eminent citizens. His mental faculties were in remarkable perfection until the last.

Judge Trumbull was born in Colchester, Conn., in 1813, and began his active life as a school-teacher. In his 20th year he presided over an academy in Georgia, meanwhile studying law and being admitted to the bar in 1837. Near the close of the same year he settled at Belleville, Ill., and soon made himself so well known that he was elected to the Legislature by the Democrats and in 1840-'41 served as Secretary of State. In 1846 he was nominated for Congress, but was unsuccessful. For five years he served with conspicuous ability on the Supreme bench and in 1852 his constituency elected him to Congress. In 1855 he was elected United States Senator by the Republicans, a position which he held until 1873, having left the Democratic party in the former year on the slavery question. During his Senatorial career he was an able Republican leader. He was on terms of intimacy with President Lincoln and supported him in all the war measures for the salvation of the Union with his customary vigor and with all his great ability. He inaugurated several important measures for the more vigorous prosecution of the war and for the confiscation of rebel property. He supported the emancipation proclamation, the suspension of habeas corpus, and drafted the thirteenth amendment to the Constitution.

During the reconstruction period, as Chairman of the Judiciary committee, he labored conscientiously for the best interests of the country, as he had done all through the war period. But when it came to the impeachment of President Johnson for his violations of law and the Constitution he took issue with his party, voted against the charges, and separated from it and went back to the Democrats. His Senatorial and indeed his public career was then ended. He appeared in public life but once or twice more, upon which occasions he was defeated as Democratic candidate for member of Congress and for Governor.

Judge Trumbull's public life may be summed up as follows: 1840, elected to the Legislature; 1848, to the Supreme Court; 1852, reelected; 1854, elected to Congress from the old Eighth District; 1855, elected United States Senator over Lincoln and others; 1861, reelected over Marshall; 1867, reelected over T. Lyle Dickey.

Since the end of his Senatorial term he has practically remained in private life, practicing his profession of the law and enjoying the respect of the community in which he so long resided.

He was a great lawyer and constitutional exponent, a statesman whose honesty never was impeached, and a man of the highest order of mental and moral qualities, with strong convictions of personal duty, a dignified presence, and a personality of rare graciousness and courtesy.