

PROCEEDINGS
UPON THE
DEATH OF ONIAS C. SKINNER,
HAD IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,
AT THE
JUNE TERM, A. D. 1877,
AT
MOUNT VERNON.

On Wednesday, June 13, A. D. 1877, THOMAS S. CASEY, Esq., on behalf of JAMES K. EDSALL, Attorney General, addressed the Court as follows:

May it please the Court:

In compliance with the wish of the Bar of Quincy, as expressed in the resolutions adopted at a meeting of that Bar, on the 7th of February last, upon the occasion of the death of Hon. ONIAS C. SKINNER, who was formerly one of the Justices of this Court, I now present to your Honors the resolutions, and request that the same be spread upon the records of the Court:

Resolved, That we have received with profound sensibility the announcement of the death of the Hon. O. C. SKINNER, and entertain a deep sense of the loss we have sustained in the death of one so long known to the community, and especially to the profession, of which he was a distinguished member, for his high legal attainments, and for the eminent ability with which he discharged the duties of the important judicial and legislative offices with which his name has been honorably associated in this State.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COURT

Resolved, That, as an expression of our respect for the deceased, and of our sorrow for his loss, we will wear the usual badge of mourning for the accustomed time.

Resolved, That we deeply sympathize with the bereaved family of the deceased, in the great affliction which in God's providence has been visited upon them.

Resolved, That the secretary of this meeting transmit a copy of these proceedings to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings be furnished to the Attorney General of the State, and that he be requested to present them to the Supreme Court, at its next session, and ask that they be entered on the minutes of the Court, and, also, that a copy hereof be presented to the circuit court of this county, at the next March term thereof, with the request that they be spread upon the records of said court.

Mr. CHIEF JUSTICE SCHOLFIELD, in behalf of the Court, responded to the resolutions in the following remarks:

The sentiments expressed in the resolutions have the hearty concurrence of every member of the Court. We sincerely lament the death of Judge SKINNER, and we cheerfully unite with the members of the Bar in honoring his memory. We shall long feel his loss as a member of the Bar of which he was so distinguished an ornament; for we have ever regarded him as one of the ablest and most valuable friends of the Court. We do not speak of that friendship which is manifested only by loud and fulsome protestations, because those who best knew Judge SKINNER, will bear witness that this was foreign to his nature; but of friendship in the better sense of the word, which is manifested by acts resulting in substantial benefits. He was honest and fair in the presentation of his cases—never seeking to impose on the court, by misrepresentation or evasion, either as to the law or the facts; and he was industrious, careful and judicious in the preparation of his arguments. His mind was quick in perceiving, acute, and usually accurate in discriminating, and its strength was rarely wasted on merely formal or trivial objections. Indeed, few lawyers possessed equal ability and skill in evolving from a complicated record the vital points in issue, and in presenting them with brevity and precision, or in analyzing and construing conflicting or ambiguous statutes. He seemed to rely for success upon the correctness of his positions, alone; and, we have no doubt, he would, at any time, have preferred defeat to being instrumental in inducing the court to announce incorrect rules of law. His arguments, hence, always lightened the labors of the court, and facilitated correct decision.

Judge SKINNER was a member of this Court from the June election in 1855, until his voluntary resignation of the office in the early part of the year 1858; and, during that period, in consequence of the rapid increase in population and the great development of the material resources of the State, many important legal questions, requiring for their satisfactory solution full and accurate legal learning, and a thorough knowledge of the present neces-

UPON THE DEATH OF JUDGE SKINNER.

sities and future expectations of the country, had to be settled. Judge SKINNER performed an equal part in the settlement of these delicate and difficult questions; and the published opinions of the Court bear witness that he did so with marked ability, and so as best to promote the public welfare. The opinions written by him are reported in 16th to 19th Ill. inclusive. They are clear, forcible and terse. Some of them have become, with us, leading cases on the questions which they discuss, and they all evince the vigorous practical mind, well informed by a careful study of the principles and philosophy of the common law, and guided by an inflexible determination to administer the law, as it was believed to be, justly and impartially. They will remain the most enduring monument to his memory.

Judge SKINNER was a prominent member of the convention which framed the present constitution of our State, and we are much indebted for many of its wisest provisions to his exertions as a member of that body. As judge, as legislator, and as lawyer, he ably and honorably acted his part. His impress on our institutions and laws is strongly marked, and if we may anticipate a prosperous and happy future for the State, it must endure.

The resolutions will be spread upon the record, and, as a further evidence of our respect for the memory of Judge SKINNER, the Court will now adjourn.

REPORTS
OF
CASES AT LAW AND IN CHANCERY

ARGUED AND DETERMINED IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS.

NORMAN L. FREEMAN,
REPORTER.

VOLUME 85.

CONTAINING THE REMAINING CASES SUBMITTED AT THE JANUARY
TERM, 1877, THE CASES SUBMITTED AT THE JUNE
TERM, 1877, AND A PORTION OF THE CASES
SUBMITTED AT THE SEPT. TERM, 1877.

THE LAWYERS CO-OPERATIVE PUBLISHING CO.
CHICAGO, ILL. ROCHESTER, N. Y.