



CHIEF JUSTICE GEORGE G. WRIGHT, 1870.

# ANNALS OF IOWA.

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## EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

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### JUDGE GEORGE G. WRIGHT.

Mr. Gue's interesting sketch of the life and public services of this illustrious Iowa pioneer, jurist and statesman, embodies the principal events in a most useful life and fortunate public career. Coming here a young man, good fortune attended him from the beginning to the end. He was always an especial favorite of the people. Those who knew him best gave him their confidence with no reservations. He was a member of the State senate for four years, serving the two legislative sessions of 1848 and 1850-51. Later on he came quite as a matter of course to the Supreme bench of the State where he won his crowning reputation. After he retired from the bench he was borne to the United States senate upon a tide of personal popularity which has scarcely ever been equalled in our State. He was a fine type of the Christian gentleman—always dignified and courteous, and his personal friends were coextensive with his acquaintance. Coming to Iowa so early, he was acquainted with most of the men who figured in public life. Mr. Gue graphically sets forth how proud Judge Wright was to be called to the presidency of the Iowa Pioneer Law Makers Association. Of all his public honors he prized this as by no means the least. While his health permitted he seldom missed attending the annual re-unions of the early settlers of Van Buren county, where he was always most heartily welcomed. They continued to call him "George Wright," as they did in the days when he was a young pioneer lawyer at their county seat. He possessed one marked characteristic which will account for much of his personal popularity. This was his love of association with young men, whom he continued to

influence as long as his life lasted. If a bill was before the legislature in which he felt an interest, he argued the case to the young men who were generally glad to further his wishes. Socially, he was always a pleasant person to meet, and while he was a man of positive convictions, he had few or no enemies. His life was one of eminent usefulness and when he was called hence the entire State mourned his departure. The most permanent and distinguishing feature of his public record will long be consulted in the Reports of the Iowa Supreme Court from 1854 to 1870.

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### THE LEHIGH BONE-BED.

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An editorial article appeared in Vol. III, current series of this magazine (pp. 647-9), in which a visit to that locality was mentioned, with the surmise that possibly it might be what is known as a "kitchen-midden," or "refuse heap," of some long-ago dwellers in the Des Moines valley. Ancient mounds abound in that section, and stone implements and fragments of pottery are often found thereabouts. But opinions as to the origin of this bone-bed are various. One Iowa naturalist, who, by the way, had not visited it, ventured the suggestion that there might have been a slough or swamp at that place in which large numbers of animals had been mired and perished. Another believed that the elk and buffalos had been driven over the high bluffs by the Indians and slaughtered in large numbers. Not long ago Prof. Samuel Calvin, our distinguished State Geologist, visited the deposit and made a hasty examination of the stratum of bones, as well as of the geological features of the locality. At our solicitation he sent the following brief but highly interesting account of his observations for these pages:

An interesting accumulation of bones, belonging apparently to the buffalo or American bison, has recently been unearthed at a point three or four miles north of Lehigh, in Webster county, Iowa. The find occurs a few rods back from the Des Moines river, near the mouth of a secondary

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