

Judge Mason always impressed me as an eminently just man, fearlessly doing that which his judgment and conscience approved as the right thing, at the same time carefully respecting the rights of others. Judge George G. Wright, of Des Moines, said of him that "he was honest as a man and as a judge; of the cleanest habits; had an utter abhorrence of the dissolute and intemperate, and exercised a most beneficial example on the side of morality."

In conclusion I will partially reproduce some words of mine written about him several years ago.

He was a man over six feet in height, thin and somewhat angular. His movements were energetic, and he carried himself erect, a habit formed during his military education at West Point. His mind was by nature a judicial one. He was an attentive listener; arranged his thoughts carefully before clothing them in words; not much given to talking; rather reticent than otherwise, yet capable of being very interesting when he did talk, and having a quick sense of humor that brought with it a cheery smile and a twinkle of the eye. He was merciful and kind-hearted, and never any but pure words came from his lips. He had no bad or useless habits; used no tobacco or spirits, and, I believe, never drank coffee or tea until he was quite advanced in life. He was careful of money, economical and self-denying, and yet very few people knew of the many young men he befriended and assisted with money. I know of one for whom he did that and more, for to me he stood in the place of a father, giving me not only advice and money, but that which was better and more precious. affection.

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IN JUNE, 1854, four colored people—long-time residents—were arrested in Galena, Ill., for the purpose of expelling them from the state, under a law then existing. A writ of habeas corpus, however, set them free again, and the movement was denounced even by pro-slavery people in Iowa, and presumably also in Illinois.

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