

## OBITUARY.

## Judge Walter B. Scates.

Judge Walter B. Scates died yesterday morning at Evanston of paralysis. He had been lame for some time, but was believed to be improving in health, and his death was unexpected.

Judge Scates was born at South Boston, Va., to Joseph Scates and (E. Bennett) Scates, moved into Kentucky where Walter helped his father on the farm. He was 19 years old, attending school when his father permitted. He developed a liking for the law and persuaded his father to give him a liberal education. He entered the office of James S. Morehead, who was at that time Governor of Kentucky, and in 1821 was admitted to practice. He soon after removed to Illinois and settled at Frankfort. When he was appointed circuit clerk he removed to Vandalia. In 1828 he married Miss Mary Ridgeway, daughter of Thomas Ridgeway of Philadelphia and half-sister of Gen. Thomas Ridgeway of Newmarket, with whom she was living. The law practice, which then sat at Vandalia, was appointed him Judge of the Third Judicial Circuit, which was composed of Marion, Jefferson, Perry, Franklin, Jackson, Union, Alexander, Hancock, Massac, Johnson, Pope, Hardin, Adams and Hamilton Counties. Under the new law requiring an addition to the Supreme Court bench of five Judge Scates was appointed to that position in 1841, the other four being Henry Breese, Thomas Ford, Samuel H. Treat, and Stephen A. Douglas. Soon after he removed to Mount Vernon. In 1847 he resigned from the Supreme bench and resumed his law practice.

Several business transactions in which he was interested about this time turned out disastrous, but not through any fault of his. Upon the nomination of the Hon. Lyman Trumbull in 1853, he was again elected to the Supreme Court bench, but in 1857 he refused to enter into a law partnership which was known as Scates, McAllister, Jewett & Peabody. The firm was not dissolved until 1862, when Judge Scates was commissioned as Major and designated to the staff of Gen. McClelland, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. Before the close of the War he was made Assistant Adjutant-General, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, and served until 1866, when he was mustered out and brevetted Brigadier-General.

Upon his return to Chicago at the end of the War he resumed the practice of law until he was appointed Collector of Customs by President Johnson. He was removed from this position in 1869 by President Grant. During the time Judge Scates was a member of the law firm mentioned he was engaged with Messrs. Blackwell and Treat in making a revision of the statutes of Illinois, which was completed before the War began. He was also a member of the Constitutional convention held in 1848. His ability as a lawyer was held in the respect of all with whom he was brought in contact. It was upon the bench, however, that his great integrity and honorable dealing with every subject brought before him was most noticeable. He was always ready with his opinion, and was fearless in giving it, even if it was adverse to that of his brethren upon the bench. His life was uncorrupted with any taint of dishonesty, and his various and arduous duties were always discharged with credit to himself and his friends. Judge Scates leaves a large family. His wife is living at the home in Evanston with two unmarried daughters, Mary and Lillian. One son, Eugene, is in business at Sterling, Ill., and Walter, Charles, Clarence, and William are in business in this city.]