

[Brown, Irving]

IRVING BROWNE.

Irving Browne, one of the best known lawyers in Buffalo, and a former resident of Albany, died yesterday. Mr. Browne was taken ill about a year ago, but was able to attend to his duties until three months ago. Paralysis developed, and he failed gradually until this morning, when death came to his relief.

Mr. Browne was born at Marshall, Oneida county, N.Y., in September, 1835. He received his early education in the common schools and academies at Nashua, N.H., and Norwich, Conn., where his father [Rev. Lewis Cresaba Browne, a Universalist clergyman] resided during young Browne's boyhood. At the age of 14 he began to study printing and telegraphy, in both of which he became an expert. He was one of the first men in this country who habitually read by sound, and in the spring of (18??) he was given employment in a telegraph office in Boston. He did not like the work, however, and after a short time gave it up, and entered the office of Theodore Miller, at Hudson, where he began the study of law.

Mr. Browne spent three years in that office and then entered the Albany law school, from which he was graduated in the spring of (1857?) and admitted to practice. He entered into partnership at Troy with Rufus M. and Martin J. Townsend. That partnership was continued until 1873, when Mr. Browne branched out for himself. He continued the active practice of law until the fall of (18?9). Upon the death of Isaac Grant Thompson, the founder and editor of the "Albany Law Journal," Mr. Browne was called to Albany to fill the editorial chair of that paper. No better selection could have been made. The "Journal" secured an editor who maintained its best traditions and enhanced its best reputation, while Mr. Browne found his true sphere of activity. He began to write editorials, special articles, essays, lectures and books. During his busy life he wrote text-books on the law of domestic relations, criminal law, parole evidence, (?) and bailments, together with a volume of "Short Studies in Evidence" and one on the "Judicial Interpretation of Common Words and Phrases."

His last work was in writing the American notes to the series of English ruling cases, now in its sixteenth volume. His humorous fancy found congenial expression in the Lawyers' Easy Chair column of the "Green Bag." He was also the author of "Short Stories of Great Lawyers," "Law and Lawyers in Literature," and humorous phases of the law.

Mr. Browne was a poet as well as a writer of prose. He was the author of "The House of the Heart," which was recently published. He also translated Racine's comedy "Les Plaideurs," a broad satire on lawyers, and two volumes of essays, entitled "Iconoclasm and Whitewash" and "In the Track of the Bookworm."

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Mr. Browne was professor of the law of domestic relations in the Albany law school for 11 years, and for the past six years he had been a lecturer in the Buffalo law school. He lectured frequently in the Cornell law school and in the Boston University law school. Three years ago he was appointed librarian of the law library in the Buffalo city hall, and held that position up to the time of his death.

Mr. Browne's first wife was a Miss Clark [Delia, daughter of Richard Clark], who died 11 years ago. He was married four years ago to Miss Elizabeth Ferris. His wife and two daughters, Miss Sarah Browne and Mrs. Loran L. Lewis, jr., survive him. The time for the funeral has not yet been set.

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