

[Perry, Chauncey]

Chauncey Perry, at one time among the foremost lawyers in Western New York, died Saturday night [1 May], age 76. The mention of his name will recall to the minds of the older inhabitants of the city one who took a large part in developing the resources of the city, who was once its leading criminal lawyer and one of its foremost citizens. He leaves no relatives, other than an adopted daughter, Mrs. W. H. Eves, of No. 53 Broadway, from whose residence the funeral will be held.

Mr. Perry came to Rochester in 1846, and immediately took a prominent part in the civic life of the city. He was then but twenty-five years of age, having been admitted a short time before to the practice of law in his native town in Saratoga county. He was almost wholly self-educated, having fitted himself for his subsequent legal career while working at his trade as a shoemaker. From the income of his profession and of real estate investments he won a fortune which, before the war, was estimated to be one of the largest in the city.

He and his son-in-law, Dr. Douglass Bly, then a prominent physician in the city, bought large tracts of land in the southern part of the city along what was then known as Pinnacle avenue, now South Clinton street. This was converted into building lots, and the existence of many pleasant homes in that part of the city is largely due to the efforts of Mr. Perry. During the war he was incapacitated for service at the front, but his eloquence was ever used in behalf of the Union. In politics he was a life-long Democrat and he received the nomination of his party for the important municipal offices. He was a school trustee and afterwards a member of the common council.

In 1877 Mr. Perry retired from active practice and he and his wife occupied a handsome residence on Broadway. Soon afterwards, however, the boom in real estate, in which he had invested large sums of money, collapsed; and finally under the pressure of repeated financial difficulties and other misfortunes he lost everything. Two years ago his wife died, and since that time he has shown signs of mental weakness which resulted in his death. The Monroe County Bar Association will meet this afternoon, when some action will be taken by the members in respect to his death.

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