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Elbridge Hanecy, ex-judge of the circuit and superior courts, is among the best known Republicans of Chicago, and as a jurist has always stood in the front rank. He is a Wisconsin man, born on the 15th of March, 1852, a son of William and Mary (Wales) Hanecy. His parents were both natives of Massachusetts, from which state they removed to Wisconsin about two years before Judge Hanecy's birth. The father served in the Mexican war as a non-commissioned officer and was engaged in mercantile pursuits in Springfield, Massachusetts, prior to his removal to the west. On his arrival in the Badger state he purchased a tract of land in Dodge county, upon which he conducted agricultural pursuits until his death in 1852. The mother afterward married Albert Littell, who served in the war of the Rebellion and died on his way home after the close of hostilities.

Judge Hanecy acquired his primary education in the public schools of his native county of Dodge, which was supplemented by a course at the College of Milwaukee. He was early attracted by the typical energy and enterprise of the Chicago spirit, and in 1869 came to the city to accept a position with Field, Leiter and Company, his life lines at that time seeming to be drawn along the path of commerce and trade, as were those of his father in his active years. Elbridge remained with the above named firm until the great fire of 1871, subsequently, for a short time, being with John V. Farwell and Company. Finding, however, that his tendencies and strong tastes were toward intellectual rather than purely commercial pursuits, he turned confidently to the law as the most promising field to cultivate.

As a law student the judge first appeared in the office of Hervey,

Anthony and Galt, of whom the last named (A. T. Galt) is still alive and in practice with his son. Elbridge Hanecy remained with that firm until he was prepared for practice, his admission to the bar occurring September 11, 1874. He immediately entered upon active professional work, and practiced alone until 1889, when he formed a partnership with George P. Merrick, who had also been a student under the preceptorship of Hervey, Anthony and Galt. The firm of Hanecy and Merrick thus formed conducted a successful business and remained intact until the election of the senior member to the circuit bench of Cook county in November, 1893.

After an able and most satisfactory service of nearly two years Judge Hanecy was assigned as chancellor of the circuit court, in July, 1895. He was re-elected to the circuit bench in June, 1897, for a term of six years. His judicial decisions were marked by clearness, force and thoroughness, and, while positive, his manner was always dignified. That the general public had the utmost confidence in him both as a judge and a man is evident from various circumstances which occurred without the pale of his court; since three times during his occupancy of the circuit bench he was selected as umpire of the board of arbitration—the second and third years unanimously—for the adjustment of differences between the bricklayers' and stonemasons' associations and their employers. When it came to entering the domain of "practical politics," however, it may be that Judge Hanecy was too outspoken; at all events in his race for the mayoralty, as a Republican candidate in 1901, he was defeated. Since that time he has served an unexpired term on the superior bench, from January to December, 1904, and is again engaged in private practice. As a lawyer he has ever been a master of details and of fundamental principles, incisive and logical in his arguments, effective in his delivery and straightforward in his methods and manner.

On the 1st of March, 1876, Judge Hanecy was married to Miss Sarah Barton, a daughter of William A. Barton, and they have six children: Olive, now Mrs. R. H. Neumeister; Edith, Ruth, Myra, Hazel and Harriette. Their only son is deceased. The judge is prominently identified with a number of social and political clubs, including the Union League, Hamilton, Chicago Athletic, Marquette, Mid-Day and Washington Park clubs. Those who know Judge Hanecy need not be told that he is a broad-minded citizen of sterling

worth, steadfastly interested in all public measures which promise to be of practical good, and those who are not acquainted with him may have the full assurance of his legion of friends to that effect.