

THE  
BENCH AND BAR  
OF  
ILLINOIS.

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HISTORICAL AND REMINISCENT.

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EDITED BY  
JOHN M. PALMER,

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM A NUMBER OF THE FOREMOST MEMBERS OF THE  
LEGAL PROFESSION IN THE STATE.

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VOLUME II.

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Edgar L. Masters

Edgar L. Masters, the junior member of the well known law firm of Scanlan & Masters, was born in Kansas, in 1869, but has resided in Illinois since his infancy. He is a grandson of S. D. Masters, who forty years ago was a notable figure in political and educational circles in Illinois. He was a soldier in the Black Hawk war of 1832, and a member of the Illinois legislature of 1855. He is still living in Petersburg, this state, at the ripe age of eighty-five years, and in March, 1898, he and his wife celebrated, at their Petersburg home, the sixty-fourth anniversary of their marriage. Mr. Masters is one of the honored pioneers who connects the early formative period of the state with the latter-day progress and prosperity. For many years he served as justice of the peace of Petersburg, and frequently Abraham Lincoln, then living at Salem, only four miles away, appeared before him as attorney in the trial of suits. The great-great-grandfather of our subject, Hillory Masters, served in the Revolutionary war, from Wythe county, Virginia. H. W. Masters, father of our subject, resides in Lewistown, Illinois, and for many years has been known as a leading lawyer and orator.

Having completed a high-school course, Edgar Lee Masters became a student in Knox College, at Galesburg, Illinois, taking special courses in languages, philosophy and belles-lettres. After his graduation in that institution he began the study of law under the direction of his father, and, having been admitted to the bar, he came to Chicago in 1892, shortly afterward forming a partnership with Kickham Scanlan,—an association that has since been maintained. For six years he has been actively engaged in practice in this city, handling both civil and criminal cases with signal success. He has often appeared in important cases in the supreme court of the state, as well as in the appellate and local courts,—such as the People versus Allen, the International Building Association litigation, the Sharkey foundry case, the Schintz and other cases. His knowledge of law is extensive and accurate; his presentation of an argument to

a jury logical and convincing. In the art of cross-examination he has proved himself an adept in many hotly contested cases, and has been associated with Mr. Scanlan in all their suits, both civil and criminal, making an enviable name for himself as a lawyer, and winning a foremost place among the younger members of the Chicago bar.

Mr. Masters was married on the 21st of June, 1898, to Miss Helen M. Jenkins, daughter of Robert E. Jenkins, a prominent member of the Chicago bar. It is quite remarkable that both Mr. and Mrs. Masters are lineal descendants, in each case on the mother's side, in the tenth generation, of John Putnam, the founder of the distinguished Putnam family in America, who settled at Salem, Massachusetts, in 1634, and was the ancestor of the Revolutionary generals, Israel and Rufus Putnam.

Mr. Masters is deeply interested in the political situation of the country, is an enthusiastic Bryan Democrat, and is an earnest student of the issues and questions of the day. He belongs to the State and Chicago Bar Associations, and socially is a member of the Knights of Pythias fraternity. He is exceedingly popular with his associates in business and society, and enjoys the confidence and regard of all who have met and known him.