

THE
BENCH AND BAR
OF
ILLINOIS.

HISTORICAL AND REMINISCENT.

EDITED BY
JOHN M. PALMER,

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

VOLUME I.

CHICAGO:
THE LEWIS PUBLISHING COMPANY,
1899.

ested in the moral and material, as well as social, progress of Chicago.

Hon. Edward H. Morris.—The life record of this member of the Chicago bar is another proof of the statement that merit is the only indispensable qualification at the bar. Mr. Morris was born a slave upon one of the plantations of Kentucky, in 1859. To-day he stands among the successful legal practitioners of the western metropolis, enjoying a very handsome income which results from a large and important law practice. The greater part of his youth was passed in Ohio and Illinois, where he attended the common schools. For twenty-eight years he has been a resident of Chicago. Under great pecuniary difficulties he acquired his professional education, and on the 12th of June, 1879, he was admitted to the Illinois bar, having passed an examination before the appellate court. His exchequer was then in such a state of depletion and his wardrobe so in need of repair that when taking the examination he wore a long overcoat, closely buttoned, in order to hide the ravages of time and wear upon his trousers. In the years which have since passed, however, he has won financial success. With strong determination and invincible courage he entered upon his professional career and has steadily gained a large clientage, largely among the white race. His practice brings him in a number of thousands every year, and his surplus earnings he has invested in real estate until his property interests are now quite large. In September, 1881, he was admitted to the bar of Wisconsin, and has had considerable practice in that state. On the 15th of October, 1885, he was admitted to the bar of the supreme court of the United States. In 1892 he served as attorney for the town of South Chicago. In 1895 was assistant attorney for Cook county, and in 1896 was again attorney for the town of South Chicago.

Mr. Morris has been especially helpful to young law students of his own race, and among those whose studies he has directed in his own office are Fred L. McGhee, of St. Paul; his brother, William R. Morris, of Minneapolis; F. A. Denison, of Chicago; and Paul Jones, of Kansas City, all now successful lawyers. He has a wide, thorough and comprehensive understanding of the law, yet his reading has never been confined to that department of learning alone. In addition to a large law library, he has a well selected miscellaneous library, containing the works of Shakespeare, Carlyle, Dickens, the poets and many other standard works, with which he is very familiar, thus finding pleasure

in the master minds of various ages. In politics Mr. Morris is a Republican, and in 1891 was elected to the Illinois general assembly from the third senatorial district.

In 1896 he was united in marriage to Miss Jessie Montgomery.

Alfred L. Baker.—At the bar and in commercial circles Alfred L. Baker has won an enviable reputation and has recently been elected president of the Chicago Stock Exchange. To gain a position of prominence among the representatives of commercial interests in this metropolis requires pronounced ability and splendid executive force, and it is through the exercise of these attributes that Mr. Baker occupies a successful position in the business world.

Born in Massachusetts, on the 30th of April, 1859, he is a son of Addison and Maria A. (Mudge) Baker, natives of Boston. His literary education was completed by his graduation in the high school of Lynn, Massachusetts, and at the age of nineteen he entered upon the study of law in the office of George E. Smith, of Boston, who directed his reading until his admission to the bar of Essex county, Massachusetts, in January, 1882. He practiced for some time as a member of the law firm of Baldwin & Baker, of Lynn, Massachusetts, and during that period was connected with the administration of the city government as a member of the city council. He was also a member of the board of education and did effective service for the schools in that city.

At length Mr. Baker determined to seek a home and fortune in the west, and in 1886 located in Chicago, where he practiced law for ten years, being a member of the firm of Baker & Greeley for six years of that period. He soon won a distinctively representative clientele and was connected with that special branch of jurisprudence known as realty law. Much of his time was given to the management of property interests and he was the counsel for a number of large estates, including that of Joel C. Walter, who was one of the pioneers of Chicago and left extensive holdings in real estate.

In 1896 Mr. Baker abandoned the active practice of law in order to engage in the banking and brokerage business, and in 1898 was elected president of the Chicago Stock Exchange. He is also a member of the New York Stock Exchange and the Chicago Board of Trade, and his investments in those lines have brought to him profitable financial returns. He is a man of keen sagacity, of strong purpose and of active enterprise, and his business methods are in strict conformity to the highest standard of ethics, so that he commands the uniform respect of his business associates.

In 1894 Mr. Baker was united in marriage to Miss Mary Corwith, daughter of the late Henry Corwith, of Chicago. He is a member of the Union League and Chicago Clubs. In politics he is an independent Republican, and although opposed to the free coinage of silver, yet on all social and economic questions he has, from his wide sympathies, always favored any movement of the point of view which gives larger opportunities for all classes, to better their social and industrial conditions. Mr. Baker belongs to that class of citizens who came from the east to become an integral part in the great activity that