

more pronounced, according to the standard then prevailing in the Southern States, and retired from politics, and has since devoted himself with unremitting attention to the practice of his profession, accumulating means and winning the good-will and friendship of the community in which he resides, amongst whom he is justly popular. Initiated into Masonry at Gorham, Me., in February, 1866, he has risen step by step, filling nearly all of the offices in his lodge, chapter and commandery to the most honorable position in the gift of the craft—the Grand Mastership.

Leading an active and useful life, he has endeavored, by the example of an honorable and upright career, to impress upon the young men of his acquaintance the importance of qualifying themselves for the duties and responsibilities of life; it was but natural to find him unanimously chosen for two terms as the President of the Young Men's Christian Association of Vicksburg. One of the most influential of the Mississippi State papers, opposed to him in politics, speaking of him recently, said :

“Judge Frederic Speed is a good lawyer, has had experience on the bench, is in the prime of life, full of energy, fertile in resources, a sound thinker and forcible speaker and positive, but courteous, in announcing his convictions.”

Another State paper, in referring to him, says :

“Judge Speed came to this State as a Federal officer during the war and joined his efforts as one of the victors to aid in building up and restoring the waste places. And right well has he done this in practical work, also in the work of reconciliation and bringing about kindly relations. A man of legal learning, as well as of large general information and culture, a Christian gentleman who has been eminent in good deeds, by reason of the modesty with which they were performed; largely acquainted throughout the State, and where known respected; one loyal to his party, and yet in no instance offensively antagonistic to his political opponents, he has won for himself a position of honor which commands the trust and esteem of all as a lawyer, earnest member of his party and public-spirited citizen.”

He is a conceded leader of the younger element, and, having the courage of his convictions, he never fails to assert himself upon the side of right, truth and justice, regardless