

their fullest confidence. It is pleasant to dwell upon his virtues, to speak well of one of whom the truth is the highest praise.

"At the bar his most striking qualities were judgment, common sense, candor and fairness, united with fine business capacity. He seemed more anxious to have justice done than to prevail in his case, maintaining only such principles as he believed to be the law, and having great power of logic and learning to present them strongly. He would stand or fall by the correctness of his positions. With the court and the jury his integrity of character gave him deserved weight, and added to the influence of his persuasive eloquence and reasoning. He had a captivating manner and an unsurpassed capacity for presenting the facts of the case clearly and strongly, with an intermixture of caustic comment and illustration at once convincing and entertaining. His fame as a lawyer rests upon the work he did in the State and Federal courts during a half century of practice, his wise counseling in his office and his services as Attorney-General of the United States. He was always a student, both of books and men, eminent in the practice in the common law and equity courts, and in the criminal courts also on great occasions. His great power was in careful thought and the application of original principles to questions under consideration. His arguments were short, close and confined to the leading points and stated with clearness and purity of diction in a strong, deliberate and careful manner. He had thought out what he had to say to a conclusion, and his sentences fell from his lips complete as if written.

"The life of James Speed was spent in industry, which won for him fortune and fame. He was the most distinguished man ever born in Jefferson county. He lived beyond the three score and ten years, with his intellect bright, his health good, his enjoyment of the society of his children and friends keen, and blessed by the respect and honor of the people among whom he had lived all his life. His end was peace. But a few days since he was in our midst, and the end came quickly. Such a life and such a death give nothing to regret. We grieve for ourselves, not for him.

"*Resolved*, That this memorial of James Speed be presented to the courts of this city, including the United States Circuit Court, with the request that it be spread upon their records, and a copy be delivered by the Secretary to the family of the deceased."

It would require a volume to set forth the splendid characteristics of James Speed and his great services, both in public and private station. A volume might also be filled with his writings, but space forbids to give more than the following extracts and letters.