

John Archibald Campbell.

In Memoriam.

JOHN ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL, LL.D.

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.

FRIDAY, April 12, 1889.

Present: The Hon. MELVILLE W. FULLER, *Chief Justice*.

SAMUEL F. MILLER,
STEPHEN J. FIELD,
JOSEPH P. BRADLEY,
JOHN M. HARLAN,
HORACE GRAY,
SAMUEL BLATCHFORD,
LUCIUS Q. C. LAMAR,

Associate Justices.

MR. ATTORNEY GENERAL MILLER addressed the court as follows:

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT: On the 13th of March last JOHN ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL, a very distinguished lawyer and ex-Justice of this court, departed this life.

For fifty years, a full half of the life-time of the government, this eminent man has been intimately and conspicuously associated with the interpretation of the laws of the land and the administration of justice.

Nor is the length of JUDGE CAMPBELL's professional career its only striking feature. The manner of his coming to the bar was unusual.

In the first year of the first term of President Jackson, by a special act of the legislature of Georgia, his native State, MR. CAMPBELL, with Robert Toombs and three or four others, was "admitted to practise law and equity" in that State.

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Removing to the city of Montgomery, he at once took the same rank at the bar which he had maintained in school and college, among the foremost, and at the age of thirty he had no superior at the bar of Alabama.

At forty-two he was appointed, and was worthy to be appointed, Associate Justice of this court.

Not one of the learned and eminent jurists who sat with him here on the bench or in the consultation room now remains to bear witness to his virtues or his talents; but the opinions he wrote, found in Howard's Reports, volumes 15 to 24 inclusive, testify, and will testify so long as American jurisprudence shall last, of his industry, his great abilities and profound learning.

A disciple, an admirer, and a friend of Mr. Calhoun, in 1861 JUDGE CAMPBELL followed, though it is believed reluctantly followed, the teachings of the apostle of state sovereignty to their logical results.

Since the war he has easily maintained a place at the bar, and, as a scholar and publicist, among the most eminent of the land.

Having no personal acquaintance with JUDGE CAMPBELL, it is not fitting that I should speak of his private life and personal character.

Fully appreciating his great and good qualities, both of head and heart, the members of this bar, on the 6th instant, adopted resolutions expressive of our sentiments on the melancholy occasion of his death. These resolutions¹ are as follows:

“The bar of the Supreme Court of the United States have

¹ At a meeting of the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States held in the court room on Saturday, the 6th of April, 1889, at 2 P.M., on motion of Mr. George F. Edmunds, Mr. George Ticknor Curtis was called to the chair and Mr. James H. McKenney was elected secretary. Mr. Assistant Attorney General Maury offered the resolutions which are printed above; and after appropriate remarks by Mr. Maury, the Rev. Alfred C. Powell of Grace Church, Baltimore, Mr. George Hoadly, Mr. William M. Evarts, Mr. George F. Edmunds and Mr. George Ticknor Curtis, they were unanimously adopted; and the meeting thereupon adjourned. The remarks made by these speakers had not been corrected and printed when this volume went to press.

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assembled for the purpose of giving expression to their sense of the loss which they, in common with the whole country, have sustained in the death of JOHN ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL.

"It is but just to his memory to say that he was a jurist of extensive and varied learning in the common law, and civil law as well, and accustomed to resort to the great sources of jurisprudence, which are the school, we are told, where proficiency can best be acquired in the difficult art of applying the abstract principles of the law to actual cases.

"His learning in constitutional law and in international law, and his large acquaintance with the political history of the country, added to his vast reading in general history and literature, fitted him admirably to sit in the Supreme Court of the United States, where for nearly eight years he was an honored and influential associate: Therefore, be it resolved:—

"1. That the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States do hereby attest their admiration and appreciation of the great career of JOHN ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL as a leading practising lawyer and as a judge of the first rank, and do hereby commemorate his many public and private virtues, and that modesty and simplicity which were the chaste setting of his great intellect and learning.

"2. That we tender the family of the deceased our sympathy; and that the Chairman be, and he is hereby, requested to send them a copy of these proceedings.

"3. That the Chairman be, and he is hereby, requested to transmit a copy of these proceedings to the Attorney General of the United States, with the request to present the same to the Supreme Court of the United States for such action as may be deemed proper."

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT: I move that these resolutions be incorporated in your record as permanent evidence of the high estimation in which JUDGE CAMPBELL was held by his brethren of the bar.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE responded as follows: The court recognizes in the decease of MR. JUSTICE CAMPBELL the departure

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of an eminent citizen, who through his power of intellect, profound learning and unremitting diligence, coupled with integrity of mind and sincere love of justice, deservedly achieved high reputation as a jurist and reflected corresponding credit upon this bench during the years he adorned it.

His accession here had been preceded, as his regretted retirement was followed, by distinguished service in the legal profession.

It is proper that marks of respect should be shown to his memory, now that, in the fulness of years, he has peacefully fallen asleep —

“ Men must endure
Their going hence, even as their coming hither :
Ripeness is all.”

The remarks of the Attorney General and the resolutions will be spread upon the record.

APPENDIX

REPORTS OF THE DECISIONS

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

FROM 1801 TO 1850

J. C. BARCROFT DAVIS, LL.D.,

EDITOR OF THE WORK.

NEW YORK: J. H. MASON,
BATES & BROTHERS,

1850.

