

LIFE SKETCHES ⁰⁷

OF

EMINENT LAWYERS,

AMERICAN, ENGLISH AND CANADIAN,

TO WHICH IS ADDED

THOUGHTS, FACTS AND FACETIÆ.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

BY

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JOHN ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL, LOUISIANA.
(1811-1889.)

Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court from 1853 to 1861. Born in Washington, Georgia, June 24, 1811. Died at Baltimore, Maryland, March 13, 1889, aged seventy-eight. Was the son of Duncan G. Campbell, a distinguished lawyer and statesman; entered State University of Georgia at eleven, graduating at fifteen, with first-class honors; was three years a West Point cadet; licensed to practice law with Robert Tombs, by special act of the Georgia Legislature; settled in Mobile in 1836; exhibited great familiarity with political economy in a financial report to the Alabama Legislature at twenty-six; twice refused seat on Alabama Supreme Bench; appointed by President Pierce, Associate Justice, March 22, 1853, at forty-two; resigned in 1861, and became Assistant Confederate Secretary of War; at end of the Rebellion he resumed practice in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Upon his reappearance before the bar of the Supreme Court, where and when his best work was

done, his arguments became as renowned as any ever delivered there. His arguments in *Hallett v. Collins* (10 How., 174), in the *Slaughter House* cases (16 Wall., 36), and in those of *New Hampshire and New York v. Louisiana* (108 U. S., 75-6), entitle him to be ranked at the head of the profession. His decisions (15-24 How.), 112 in number, with 26 dissents, notably *Florida v. Georgia* (17 How., 621), show him to have been a profound and philosophical jurist and greatly learned in the civil and common law. "Ranks with the greatest advocates of our time," says George Ticknor Curtis, "not for eloquence, not for brilliancy, not for the arts of the rhetorician, but for those solid accomplishments, for that lucid and weighty argumentation by which a court is instructed to a right conclusion." Of one of his arguments an Associate Justice said: "The greatest I've heard since a member of the court."

He was a man of noble presence and great physical power; tall, dignified and impressive; of exalted character, lovable in his home life, and possessed an ardent Christian faith.

A Philosophical Jurist.

“Judge Campbell had few, if any, equals at the American bar as a profound and philosophical Jurist; as a jurist who was continually giving vigor and breadth to his intellect by resorting to the great sources of the Roman law. * * * He went to the bottom of everything that required his attention, and shrank from no drudgery that was necessary to accomplish his purposes.”—William A. Maury: From remarks at Judge Campbell’s death in United States Supreme Court.

Greatest Lawyer in United States.

“John A. Campbell was the greatest lawyer in the United States, in my opinion. I knew him well.”—Thomas J. Semmes, of New Orleans, in letter to the author, October 11, 1892.