

LIFE SKETCHES

OF

EMINENT LAWYERS,

AMERICAN, ENGLISH AND CANADIAN,

TO WHICH IS ADDED

THOUGHTS, FACTS AND FACETIÆ.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

BY
GJC
GILBERT J. CLARK, ESQ.,

OF THE KANSAS CITY BAR; AUTHOR OF ENGRAVINGS OF 144 "EMINENT
AMERICAN, ENGLISH AND CANADIAN LAWYERS,"

IN TWO EDITIONS.

KANSAS CITY, MO.:
LAWYERS' INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHING CO.
1895.

S
US
908
CLH

DAVID SCHENCK, NORTH CAROLINA.

(1835- —)

Born in Lincolnton, North Carolina, March 24, 1835, of Swiss extraction. His ancestors, who were Mennonites, having been banished for religious opinions, came to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1709, and his great grandfather, Michael Schenck, immigrated to North Carolina about 1790. Mr. Schenck was educated at the High School of Silas C. Lindsley, an eminent scholar, studied law with Honorable Haywood C. Guion, and graduated at the Law School of Chief Justice R. M. Pearson, beginning practice in 1857. In 1858 he was solicitor of Gaston county, and in 1860, of Lincoln county. He was the youngest delegate in 1861 to the State convention which passed the ordinance of Secession. Was elected Judge of the Superior Court of North Carolina, in 1874, and rode nearly all the State circuits and gained an enviable reputation as a jurist. At double his judicial salary, he became General Counsel, 1881, of the Richmond and Danville Railroad syndicate, supervising a thousand miles of road.

While in this position he was tendered the Justice-ship of the Supreme Court of the State, but declined it.

As a criminal lawyer, in the early part of his life, he gained so large a practice that he was obliged to limit it to his physical capacity. His argument in the State Supreme Court on the Constitutionality of the States regulating freight rates, stamped him as a profound thinker and, at once, put him in the front rank of corporation lawyers. His practice in that court has been large and lucrative, and his opinions are received with the greatest consideration. He is also an author, publishing in 1889, "North Carolina—1790-81," a historical volume of five hundred pages, and in 1884, "Railroad Law in North Carolina," the edition being quickly exhausted. He is now consulting counsel of the Richmond and Danville Railroad system, and president of the "Guilford Battle Ground Company." In 1878 the University of North Carolina conferred upon him the degree of LL. D., and various historical societies in the Union have elected him as honorary member. In church relations he is an ardent Episcopalian, and devout in his duties as a Christian and churchman.