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Before the expiration of his term as Judge he received the nomination
for Congress, without seeking on his part, or even a desire for it, and
was elected in the Fall of 1851. He resigned the office of Judge in
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A meeting of the bar was held on June 12th to take action on the death of Judge Wells. A series of memorial resolutions was adopted and leading lawyers and judges spoke of the life and character of their associate. Mr. Dudley presided at the meeting and paid a high and feeling tribute to the noble qualities and eminent attainments of his former partner. And at the opening of the Court, June 13, the resolutions adopted by the bar were presented and accepted by the Court. Several prominent members who were present spoke in eulogy of their deceased associate and friend. The remarks of Hon. John Stewart on that occasion were biographical in character and in their course he said, "When I say that Judge Wells was a friend of mankind I speak from a knowledge based upon an intimate acquaintance with him for nearly thirty years. He was an excellent lawyer and an independent upright and impartial judge. He was not only an able lawyer, but a statesman as well. The speeches delivered by him in Congress furnished unmistakable evidence of his rare capacity for statesmanship. Some of us who have argued cases before him on the bench; others of us have met him at the bar in many hard-fought and closely contested legal controversies, and all of us have met him more or less frequently at the social circle, and in the walks of private life, and, speaking for myself alone I am free to say that I never knew a man who possessed a more evenly balanced mind and temperament than he possessed; nor is it too much to say that in his death our profession has lost one of its brightest ornaments and the community one of its most robust and worthy citizens. Judge Wells was an honest man; he was also a sincere, earnest and true man, sincere in his counsel to every one who sought it and earnest and true to his convictions of right and duty. He was also a good man, good in the broadest and most catholic acceptance of that term".

Judge Wells was twice married. First on Sept. 5, 1843, to Margaret Stewart and second, on Jan. 12, 1869 to Mrs. Catherine D. Hagaman, who survives him.

NOTES:—In 1865 when the F.J. & G. R.R. was projected Judge Wells was made treasurer of the movement.

Judge Wells never solicited professional engagements. His love of literature was a controlling power in his life. He died suddenly while in the fullness of his powers.

Wells Family:—John Wells was the son of Nathan Perkins Wells and Sarah Akin.

Children of John Wells by Margaret Stewart,—
1. Nathan J., d. at 24—
2. Catherine, mar. Philetus Pierson Argersinger
3. (Unmarried) SARAH—
4. John, d. young—
5. Elisabeth, d. young—
6. Walter S., mar. Caroline Quackenbush
7. Anna, mar. Dr. J. H. Glas, Utica, N.Y.
8. John, d. infant

No children by second marriage.

[Signature]
[Union 1864?]

[Incomplete handwriting]
Wells, John. 1835 - 7/15/1835.

"...of Johnstown...I have always thought him to be a clever, amiable little fellow till of late it was intimated that he was a mischievous dissembling rogue...yet, if they possess moral principle enough they may pass through the enchanting scenes of vice...his talents are quite respectable and his scholarship good." Pearson Diaries V.2, pp.151-152. ALSO V.4, p.750.
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Transcribed from

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