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AMOS DEAN.

PROFESSOR AMOS DEAN, of the Law Department of Albany University, and one of the editors of this magazine, died suddenly on the 26th of January last. Early in the winter he had a fall, by which his right arm and shoulder were badly fractured, and he did not seem to recover from the effects, although his general health was not impaired until a few days before his death.

Mr. Dean was born in Barnard, Vermont, January 16th 1803. At that time his native town was small, and inhabited chiefly by adventurous pioneers, who devoted themselves to the cultivation of the rugged soil. His father, Nathaniel Dean, had come to Barnard at an early day from Hardwick, Mass., and was, like most of his neighbors, a farmer. There were no facilities for learning beyond the rudimentary education of the village school-house, but the subject of this notice evinced, while still a boy, an eager desire for knowledge, and by his diligence and energy availed himself of his little opportunities so well that he was able to enter at an early age the Vermont University.

From this, however, he soon transferred himself to Union College, where he graduated in 1826.

After determining upon the law as his profession he went to Albany, and entered the office of his mother's brother, the late JABEZ D. HAMMOND, who was then in partnership with Judge ALFRED CONKLING. He was admitted to practice at the May

Term of the Supreme Court in 1829, and from that time engaged assiduously and earnestly in his profession. For several years, and during the earlier period of his practice, he was associated with AZOR TABER, then recognised as one of the most eminent lawyers of that part of the state. The firm possessed an extensive practice and attained an honorable standing.

Professor DEAN, however, was more fond of acquiring and imparting knowledge than of the routine, and detail, and sharp encounters of active practice.

Without any pretensions to eloquence, he was a clear, direct, and forcible speaker, and might have attained a fair measure of success before juries but for his tastes which made the duties of an advocate especially disagreeable to him. He soon began to confine himself to the office and the counsel-room, where he became eminent for learning, prudence, and wisdom, and these qualities, added to unimpeachable integrity, brought him clients and fame.

Professor DEAN, however, was chiefly eminent as a scholar. He was such by education, by habit and taste. He had an extraordinary aptitude for scientific and historical learning, and, blended with his knowledge in the law, equal stores of learning in other favorite departments. He took great interest in young people, and especially in the cause of popular education, to which he gave a great deal of time and attention during his whole life. In 1833 he conceived the plan of establishing societies of young men for their mental improvement, and gathering about him a few friends, established the "Albany Young Men's Association," the model upon which thousands of similar associations have since been formed throughout the country. Upon the organization of the association he was elected its first president, devoting much time and labor to its affairs for several years, and retaining an affectionate interest in its proceedings and welfare during the rest of his life.

In 1838 he was associated with Doctors MARCH and ARMSBY in establishing the Albany Medical College, and from that time to 1859 held in it the position of Professor of Medical Jurisprudence. He was also, at the time of his death, a trustee of the Dudley Observatory and of the Albany Female Academy.

The Law Department of the University of Albany was established by his exertions mainly, and he became one of its pro-

fessors as well as its active manager. His special department was the law of personal property, contracts, and commercial law, and to his duties in this professorship his chief labors were given during the latter years of his life. The school prospered, and has at this time a high reputation throughout the country, a very large part of which is due to the character and efforts of Professor DEAN.

He was a man of unwearied industry, and attained some position as an author. In early life he delivered a series of lectures upon the subject of Phrenology, which were subsequently embodied in a book. He was the author at an early age of a "Counting-House Manual of Law," and at various times wrote addresses and lectures upon subjects of public interest. In 1833, he delivered the annual address before the Albany Institute on the "Philosophy of History." He delivered several lectures before the Young Men's Association during the first two years of its existence. He also delivered a eulogy upon the life and character of Jesse Buel, before the State Agricultural Society, and an annual address before the Senate of Union College.

In 1861 he became one of the editors of this journal, and wrote from time to time, leading articles on various subjects, such as Unsolved Problems of the Law as embraced in Mental Alienation, Interpretation and Construction of Contracts, Domicil, Application of Payments, &c., all of which were marked by his usual careful industry, accuracy, and simplicity of style.

As a lawyer, Professor DEAN'S reputation will rest principally upon his work on Medical Jurisprudence, an early text-book, written before the subject had attracted the great attention which it is now receiving from both the legal and medical professions. Although in some measure superseded by later works, this is still a standard text-book, and has made the author's name familiar to all the courts of this country.

In literature outside of his profession, his chief claim to notice will be his yet unpublished work on the History of Civilization. Upon this he had been engaged for twenty years with the greatest interest and assiduity. His design was to make a compendious history of civilization, both in its facts and its philosophy, giving in systematic order the substance and significance of the whole course of human progress; and the amount of time, labor, and learning that he had devoted to it gave assurance of a work of