

His wife is Adelia C., daughter of the late Dr. E. E. Duncomb, of St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada. They have two surviving children—Clara, born in 1857, and William Penn, Jr., born in 1861.

Harmon S. Conger,

formerly judge of the twelfth judicial circuit, was born in Cortland Co., N. Y., where he read and practiced law until he came to Janesville, in 1855. While a resident of Cortland county he took a lively interest in political affairs, and while pursuing his legal studies he purchased the Cortland County *Whig*, which he edited with ability and earnestness for six years; at the expiration of this period the young editor sold it out and gave his entire time and energies to his profession. Shortly after his admission to the bar, much to his surprise, he was nominated to Congress by the whig convention in 1846. Owing to the political complexion of the district, many believed that the nomination was only an empty honor; but, contrary to general expectation, Mr. Conger was elected to the 30th Congress, and was re-elected in 1848, although his opponent was his old preceptor, and one of the ablest and most popular men in the district. After serving two terms in Congress he gave his undivided attention to his profession, allowing nothing to divert him from the pursuit of his life. After twenty-five years' experience as an attorney, a ripe scholar, a well trained lawyer, an honest man, he was elected judge of this circuit in 1870; re-elected in 1876.

Free from obnoxious partisanship as it is possible for a man to be, he proved to be a most satisfactory and capable judicial officer. He died on the 22d day of October, 1882, in Janesville, Wis.

John R. Bennett,

present judge of the twelfth judicial circuit, was born at Rodman, Jefferson Co., N. Y., on the 1st day of November, 1820; he was the second son and third child of Daniel Bennett and Deborah Leeds Bennett, whose maiden name was Spicer; his father and mother were

descendants from English Puritan ancestors, who settled in the State of Connecticut about the year 1640. His father was born in the town of Stonington, in that State, on the 16th day of February, 1793. The fourth son of David Bennett and Rebecca Bennett, whose maiden name was Miner and David, was the son of Stephen and Mehitable Bennett. His mother was the daughter of William Spicer and Hannah Spicer, whose maiden name was Hannah Leeds, being the daughter of Gideon Leeds, of the city of Leeds, England. His father being a farmer in comfortable circumstances, the son worked at home on the farm, attending the common district school until the fall of 1839, when he commenced attending the Black River Literary and Religious Institute, located at Watertown, N. Y., and prepared for teaching school, which he engaged in that fall, and from that time until the month of April, 1844, continued attending this school at Watertown, and teaching district and select schools. He then entered upon the study of law in the office of Western W. Wager, at Brownsville, Jefferson Co., N. Y., reading with him about six months. On the 28th day of November, 1844, at Hounsfield, Jefferson Co., N. Y., he was married to Elsie L. Holloway, the daughter of Charles and Chloe Holloway, whose sweet gentle influence has ever tended to lead him in the proper and pleasant paths of life, and to be under the guidance of the better angel of his nature; the purity of her life, the wisdom of her counsel and the comfort of her society, are still continued to him by a beneficent Providence, and are the sources of his greatest happiness. In the month of April, 1845, he commenced reading law in the office of Dyre N. Burnham, of Sacketts Harbor, N. Y., and continued reading with him until the 8th day of May, 1848, when he was admitted to practice in all the courts of that State. On the 2d day of October, 1848, he started for the west, reaching Janesville, Wis., October 13, where he located, and has since practiced his profession;

he has no children, but has adopted two sisters, Minnie and Kitty Parry, who have assumed his name and have been with him now over twenty-years, and are the light and joy of his home; they have been with him since they were respectively, four and two years of age. Mr. Bennett's practice, which has gradually increased from its commencement at Janesville, is confined mostly to Rock, Walworth, Jefferson and Green counties, and the Supreme Court of the State. From 1863 to 1867, he held the office of district attorney of Rock county, and, in 1860, was a delegate to the National republican convention, held at Chicago, which nominated Abraham Lincoln for President; without being a candidate, he was nominated, in 1875, by the republican State convention for attorney-general, but was defeated with the rest of the ticket, with the exception of Harrison Ludington, the candidate for governor. In religious belief he is a New Churchman, or Swedenborgian, as the members of the denomination are more frequently called; they hold that the Sacred Scriptures, unlike all human composition, contain within the letter a spiritual sense as far above the literary sense in beauty, brightness and power, as the immortal soul exceeds the perishable body, in which it "groans in this life, being burdened;" he counts it a fortunate circumstance that his ancestors, so far as he has any knowledge of them, were deeply religious; and for the pious instructions received from his parents, who now, he trusts, occupy the everlasting abodes of the blessed, he is under a debt of gratitude which can never be repaid.

The counties in the twelfth circuit, the times of holding court in each, and the places where they are held, are set forth in the following tabular statement:

TWELFTH CIRCUIT.

Judge—JOHN R. BENNETT—Janesville.
Term expires first Monday of January, 1889.

Counties	Terms.	Where held.	Laws.
Rock ...	4th Monday in January.. 4th Monday in April..... Wednesday after 1st Monday in November.....	Janesv'e	Sec. 2424, R. S.
Green...	1st Tuesday in March..... 3d Tuesday in June..... 1st Tuesday in October...	Monroe	Sec. 2424, R. S.
Jefferson	1st Monday in February.. 2d Tuesday in June..... 1st Monday in September	Jeffers'n	Sec. 2424, R. S.

No jury shall be summoned for either of the terms in this circuit appointed to be held in the months of January and June. Every term in this circuit shall also be a special term for the whole judicial circuit.—Section 2424, Revised Statutes.

COUNTY COURT OF GREEN COUNTY.

The act of Congress which provided for the organization of Wisconsin Territory, declared that the judicial power therein should be vested not only in a Supreme Court, district courts and justices of the peace, but also in probate courts, the last named being the same courts now denominated county courts. During the continuance of Wisconsin Territory the judges of these last mentioned courts were called "probate judges;" and prior to 1843, they were appointed by the governor, although none was appointed for this county.

County courts were established in Wisconsin by chapter 86 of the Revised Statutes of 1849; and the jurisdiction and powers previously exercised by probate courts were transferred to them. Civil jurisdiction was to a limited extent vested in them, but was soon after taken away.

Probate and County Judges.

(Probate Judges.)

D. S. Sutherland, 1843; Asa Richardson, 1844; S. P. Condee, 1846; D. Smiley, 1848.

(County Judges.)

J. A. Bingham, 1849; J. A. Bingham, 1853; B. Dunwiddie, 1857; B. Dunwiddie, 1861; B. Dunwiddie, 1865; B. Dunwiddie, 1869; B. Dunwiddie, 1873; B. Dunwiddie, 1877; B. Dunwiddie, 1881.

The first letters of administration granted in the probate court of Green county is set forth in the following record:

Probate Court, Green County, Aug. 13, 1841.

Personally appeared before this court, Robert Hopkins, of Vigo county and State of Indiana, and after being duly sworn said that Caleb Hopkins, late of this county, died on or about the first day of December, 1840, in Honey Creek township, Vigo county and State of Indiana, and that the said Caleb Hopkins was his lawful brother, and that he left no widow or children to heir his estate known to him from the best of his knowledge, and that the deceased has no heirs residing in this Territory who might administer on the estate, and that the