

## OBITUARY.

[Continued from 3d page.]

in 1857. The previous year he was city attorney. For several years he was Chairman of the State Democratic Committee. As a lawyer Mr. Brisbin attained high rank, being the counsel in many celebrated cases.

Mr. Brisbin was married twice, first in 1850, to Miss Almira George, who died in 1863. In 1866 he married Miss Margaret M. Jones, who survives him with one child.

COL. JOHN OAKEY, '49.

John Oakey of the Class of Forty-Nine, died at his home, 865 Union street, Brooklyn, N. Y., at an early hour on the morning of March 24th. Mr. Oakey went to bed the evening before in apparently good health, with the exception of a slight bilious attack, such as he had been accustomed to for the last twenty-five years. He was heard moving about very early in the morning, but when the family went to call him at at eleven o'clock he was found dead in bed. His death is supposed to have been caused by gastric apoplexy.

Col. Oakey was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., on September 12th, 1829. He was a lineal descendant of the famous Col. John Oakey, who commanded a regiment in Cromwell's army and was celebrated in story and song as one of the great warriors of the seventeenth century. Col. Oakey prepared for College at the Erasmus Hall Academy in Flatbush, N. Y., and entered the Freshman class at Yale in 1845, graduating in 1849. While in College he devoted a great deal of time to the study of music, and was for a time the leader of the Beethoven Society's Orchestra. After a little preliminary study Col. Oakey entered the law office of James Humphrey of Brooklyn, and in 1851 he was admitted to the bar. For the two years following he was managing clerk in the office of C. T. Crowell, N. Y. In October, 1854, he began the practice of law in Brooklyn, where he had an office until 1874, when he transferred his practice to New York. From 1861, Col. Oakey was Justice of the Peace for King's County, L. I., until he was appointed Commissioner of Excise for the same County in 1865, a position which he held for six years. In 1866-7 he was also a member of the New York State House of Representatives. In 1872 he was elected U. S. Assessor and held this office until 1878, when he was elected District Attorney for Brooklyn, holding this latter office for eight years. On September 1st, 1889, he was appointed Assistant U. S. District Attorney for the Eastern District of New York under General Isaac S. Catlin. Five years later he became District Attorney for the same District. In 1896 he resigned this office and resumed his law practice.

Col. Oakey was one of the veterans of the famous Seventh regiment of the N. Y. S. N. G., serving with his regiment in the Civil War from 1861 to 1863. For five years previous to 1873 he was Judge Advocate, with the rank of Colonel, on the Staff of Major-General Shaler, First Division, N. Y. S. N. G. He was at the time of his death an active member of Mansfield Post, No. 35, G. A. R.

For many years Col. Oakey has been familiarly and affectionately known to his friends as "Our John," a name which he won from a humorous lecture of that title which he delivered, perhaps a hundred times in Brooklyn and neighboring cities in aid of works of charity. He has lectured on many subjects, his favorite being "The Mussulman of America." He delivered the oration at Admiral Farragut's grave some years ago and also at the dedication of the Soldiers' Monument at Canarsie. He was a member of many social clubs, among them being the Lincoln Club, the Society of Old Brooklynites, the Yale Alumni Association of Long Island and the Rocky Mountain Club. He was also an enthusiastic yachtsman, having been for many years a member of the Brooklyn Yacht Club and of the Atlantic Yacht Club.

Col. Oakey was twice married. On June 3d, 1857, he married Sarah Spoford of Flatbush, L. I. They had one daughter, Martha Tileston. Mrs. Oakey died on August 26th, 1862. On November 9th, 1871, he married Fanny Wallach Allen of Brooklyn, and they had three daughters, Mary Woodworth, Lillian Allen, and Fanny Wallach.

Col. Oakey was the last of his branch of his family, as his brothers had no children and he himself no son. His wife and youngest daughter, Fanny Wallach, survive him.

VOLNEY HICKOX, '57.

Volney Hickox of the Class of Fifty-Seven, died at Springfield, Ill., on Saturday, March 12th, 1898, aged 62 years, 4 months and 11 days.

He was for many years the Circuit Court stenographer, but retired from the office some time ago. He served in the war on the general staff of the Department of the South, and also on the staff of the Department of the East, being mustered out of service on account of severe inflammatory rheumatism from which he never recovered. As a reporter he was the first man to bring to Washington the news of Sherman's arrival on the coast after his famous march, beating the government messenger by two days. He was the only correspondent present at Durham Station between Kirkpatrick and Johnston, (the last opposing leaders of the war) and rode with the news directly across rebel territory to bring home the report.

GIDEON WELLS, '58.

Gideon Wells of Springfield, Mass., died at his home in that city on the morning of March 26th, of Bright's disease. Three weeks ago to-day Mr. Wells went to Fortress Monroe, Va., in the hope of benefiting his health. He did not improve however, and returned to Springfield last Thursday. Although his intimate friends knew his health to be very poor, his sudden death was a great surprise and shock.

Gideon Wells was the son of Romanta and Mary Morgan Wells, and was born in Wethersfield, Conn., on the 16th of August, 1835. He received his preparation for College at Windsor, Conn., and at the Williston Academy, Easthampton, Mass., and entered Yale with the Class of Fifty-Eight. For two years after graduation Mr. Wells studied law in Springfield, and was admitted to the bar in 1860. The next year he became junior partner of the firm of Ashmun, Leonard & Wells, and a year later, on the retirement of Mr. Ashmun the firm became Leonard & Wells, and thus continued for many years.

On August 15th, 1862, Mr. Wells entered Co. A, 46th Massachusetts Infantry as a private. Two years later at Newbern, S. C., he was promoted to be a first lieutenant. When his term of enlistment was over he immediately re-enlisted as a first lieutenant in the 8th Massachusetts Infantry, and was mustered out of the service on the 10th of November, 1864. He spent most of the time during the war near Newbern, S. C., but was in Baltimore a short time and was with the army of the Potomac after the battle of Gettysburg.

Returning after the war to Springfield, he was a member of the City Council during the years 1866-7, and on January 1st, 1867, was appointed Register of Bankruptcy for the U. S. District Court, a position which he held until July of the year, when he resigned to become Judge of the Springfield Police Court. This position he held until 1889.

Mr. Wells had interests in many concerns. He has been a Director and Attorney for the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company since 1877; a Director of the Springfield Street Railway since 1886; President of the Holyoke Water Power Company since 1889; a Director of the John Hancock National Bank since 1884, and since 1893 its Vice-President. He was also President of the Springfield and of the Richmond, Va., Electric Light Companies for many years. Besides the above he was connected as Director or other officer with a large number of Western mining companies.

Mr. Wells was married on October 13, 1875, to Miss Marietta Gilbert, daughter of Merritt S. and Esther Gilbert. His wife and one son, Gilbert, survive him.

At a meeting of the St. Paul's School Club on last Friday evening, officers were elected as follows: President, Alfred G. Vanderbilt, '99; Vice-President, E. T. Nugent, '99 S.; Secretary and Treasurer, F. B. Adams, 1900.

## An Inter-Department Debate.

An inter-department debate between the Yale Union and the Sheffield Debating Society has been arranged to take place on April 29th. The choice of sides has fallen to the Sheffield Society, which has taken the negative on the question, "Resolved, That street railway systems should be owned and controlled by the municipal government." The judges and speakers will be appointed later.

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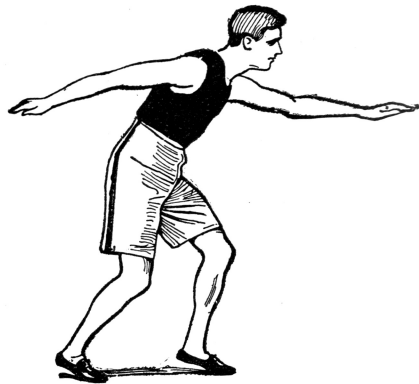
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