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RASSELAS BROWN.

HON. RASSELAS BROWN, a prominent lawyer of Warren, and, from 1860 to 1870, President-Judge of the Sixth Judicial District of Pennsylvania, was born at Brownville, Jefferson County, New York, September 10, 1812. His father, George Brown, was a native of Pennsylvania, and served in the American army during the War of 1812-'15. The mother, whose maiden name was Temperance, was a daughter of James and Anna Temperance, of Connecticut, and a native of that State. Having completed the usual course of instruction in the district schools of Brownville, the subject of this sketch attended the academy in Belleville, Jefferson County, and afterwards the excellent one at Watertown. Having duly prepared himself, he entered Union College in 1834, taking standing in the junior class, and graduating with it in 1836. Accepting the position of Principal of the Academy at Warren, Pennsylvania, he removed thither, after closing his collegiate course, and entered upon his duties. During the three years that he remained at the head of the Warren Academy, he employed his leisure time in studying law, his preceptor being the late Hon. Lansing Wetmore, then one of the leading members of the Pennsylvania bar. He also studied in the office of Messrs. Struthers and Johnson, a legal firm with a large practice. In June, 1839, he was admitted to the bar at Warren, and at once engaged in active practice, opening an office in the place named and beginning professional work with the best wishes of a large circle of friends. The result proved that he was fortunate in the choice of a life vocation. To his superior education he added a natural taste for legal work and a marked aptitude in meeting its requirements. He also possessed that prime necessity for success at the bar, integrity. Laboring industriously, he rapidly built up a practice which continued to increase in volume and importance for a period of twenty years, and finally extended to all parts of the State. Five years after he began to practice law, he was so well entrenched in the esteem of his fellow citizens that he was chosen by them to represent Warren County in the Legislature of the State, where he served one term, acquitting himself of his duties with zeal and ability. But law was more to his taste than politics and he never afterwards sought a purely political office. In 1852 he was appointed a member of the Board of Revenue Commissioners from his District. In 1860 he was appointed to the office of President-Judge of the Sixth Judicial District of Pennsylvania. This exalted position he filled with rare ability for a period of one year, at the expiration of which he was

re-nominated for the same office. A sincere Democrat from conviction, his political views were not in accord with those entertained by the majority of his fellow citizens; and owing to party feeling running high he was defeated, not merely on this occasion but at several subsequent elections, when his name was again brought forward for judicial office. His great talents as a lawyer, however, were conceded by men of all parties, and in 1872 he was the choice of his District as a member of the State Constitutional Convention, and was an able and respected member of that distinguished and representative body. For many years Judge Brown has had a most extensive practice among the leading corporations of the State. He is at present special attorney for the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad, in which he is also a Director. He has been a Director in and President of the Jamestown and Franklin Railroad since 1882, and a Director in the Dunkirk, Allegheny and Pittsburgh Railroad since it was organized. He is also a Director and large stockholder in the Dunkirk and Warren, and Warren and Venango Railroads. He was one of the founders of the First National Bank of Warren, of which he is a Director and counsel, and of the Warren Savings Bank. For some years he was counsel for the Borough of Warren. In early life Judge Brown took a hearty interest in the militia of the State, and in 1858 was commissioned a General of Brigade, in which capacity he served efficiently for several years. In the discharge of all the varied duties, both public and private, which have fallen to him, he has distinguished himself by marked integrity, unswerving patriotism, and the high-mindedness characteristic of the cultivated gentleman. To unusual mental ability he unites those practical qualifications which are essential to the successful carrying out of all projects. He has been an active participant in affairs for a period longer than the lives of many men, and his record is stainless. In January, 1841, he married Miss Elizabeth Sill, daughter of Nathaniel Sill, of Warren.
