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AUTHORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

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DAVID T. WATSON.

David Thompson Watson was born in Washington, Pennsylvania, January 2, 1844, the fifth of ten children born to James Watson and Maria Woodbridge Morgan, both of them natives of Canonsburg, Washington county. His father, James Watson, born in 1810, was graduated from Canonsburg College, studied law under the instruction of Thomas McKenna, was admitted to the bar in 1833 and soon afterwards to a partnership with his preceptor upon the latter's election to Congress. For more than forty years he continued to practice his profession and achieved dis-

tion at the Washington County Bar and won the esteem of all his professional associates, as well as citizens generally, for his ability, integrity and uprightness. His mother was a daughter of George Morgan, a native of Princeton, New Jersey, and the son of Col. George Morgan, who was educated in Princeton University and came to Washington county with his parents at the age of sixteen—and of Elizabeth A. Thompson, daughter of David Thompson of Delaware, whose name was bestowed on the subject of this sketch. David T. Watson was educated in the common schools and in Washington College; but his course in college was interrupted by enlistment at the age of nineteen in the service of the United States for the Civil War. His first enlistment was for ninety days in the Fifty-Sixth Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers, for the capture of John Morgan, during his raid into Pennsylvania and Ohio. In this service he had the rank of orderly sergeant. A year later he was mustered in as a lieutenant in Knapp's Battalion and served until the close of the war. He then entered the law school of Harvard University and pursued the regular course, from which he was graduated in 1866. He immediately entered the office of his father to engage in practice, but soon afterwards opened an office in Pittsburg. For a short while he was in partnership with Hopkins & Lazear and then with James Veach. In 1873, this partnership was

terminated and he entered upon an independent practice. His advancement was rapid and it was only by prodigious effort and assiduous application and marvelous ability for details that he was able to take care of the business which came to him without solicitation. Very soon he was recognized as a leader of the Allegheny County Bar and for more than twenty years he has maintained a position in the forefront of the profession, a position he has maintained by sheer force of ability, legal training and uninterrupted application. His reputation was not confined by county lines, and as it extended he was retained in important cases outside of the State of Pennsylvania and became a well known figure in the Supreme Court of the United States. Laterally he has been conspicuous in cases of national and international importance. He was retained for the United States by the Attorney General in the Northern Securities case, argued before the Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis, Missouri, in March, 1903. This case involved the construction of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act and the decision of the court was in accordance with his contention. His argument in the Alaskan Boundary Dispute was made before the International Tribunal in London, September, 1903. The court chosen for this purpose consisted of three eminent Americans, appointed by the United States, and three of the most reputable jurists of Great Britain and Canada, the six

constituting a Joint Commission. It is within bounds to say that the argument of Mr. Watson on this occasion convinced the judgment of Lord Alverstone and won the case for the United States. He was retained as expert counsel by the City of Chicago to investigate and give an opinion in a controversy relating to traction matters, long in dispute, and his opinion rendered in January, 1904, gave evidence of deep research covering the whole ground in dispute.

David Thompson Watson is a lawyer by heredity, instinct, profession and mastery of the principles of the law. In his treatment of cases and his argument before the higher courts, he does not rely wholly upon statutes and legislative acts, but upon underlying principles forming the foundation upon which the whole theory of the law rests. He correlates the facts as a scientist would correlate natural phenomena. He is therefore greater than a "case lawyer." His research is so thorough and his consideration of all possible complications so complete, that he knows the case in hand so well as never to be sur-

prised during a trial or argument. With a due sense of proportion he gives to each fact and principle its proper weight, contending with tenacity for every point that is vital and yielding courteously whatever is trivial or unimportant. In this respect it may be said that he resembles the elder Thomas Ewing of national fame.

Mr. Watson, in 1889, married Miss Margaret Hepburn Walker, daughter of the late William Walker, who at the time of his death in 1883 was president of the Farmers' Deposit National Bank, a business man of ability, a man of affairs and wealth. Mr. and Mrs. Watson have made numerous trips abroad and, besides enjoying the pleasures of travel, have collected many fine paintings and much fine statuary for the adornment of their home. Mr. Watson is strictly devoted to his profession. He has never been tempted to accept office by appointment, or a candidacy for either judicial or political office. His preference is the law, and to that he is entirely devoted and on that account, doubtless, he has the more readily achieved high position as a lawyer.