

# Jerome Clark Burnett 1833-1891

Indianapolis News; May 4, 1891

## Jerome C. Burnett

Washington, May 4 - Jerome C. Burnett, chief of the National Bank Division of the Treasury Department, died of paralysis yesterday, aged fifty-eight years.

Mr. Burnett was a native of this State and a resident of Terre Haute until 1861, when he came to this city as a deputy under his father-in-law, the late Hon. Albert Lange, who had been elected Auditor of State. When Mr. Lange was defeated for re-election Mr. Burnett bought an interest in the Evening Gazette with Dr. J.H. Jordan, which he held until the campaign of 1864, during which he was the secretary of the State central committee. He entered the Auditor's office again the next year and remained there through the administrations of Messrs. McCarty and Evans. In 1872 he was again secretary of the central committee. At that time and for two years later he was concerned in a company manufacturing cement pipe, which proved unsuccessful, and that with the fall in real estate values, swept away his property. In 1875, when Mr. New was made United States Treasurer, he offered Mr. Burnett the place of chief of the National Bank Division, which he took and has held ever since. A few years ago he joined in establishing the journal Public Opinion, which has been a great success and which has been very profitable to him. His wife survives him, and two children - Charles, a lawyer of the State of Washington, and a married daughter at Lafayette. A younger son died recently.

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obituary of Jerome Clark Burnett who d 5/3/1891 Washington, DC.

The funeral of Mr. Jerome C Burnett, 1505 R St yesterday, was attended by a very large number of the deceased gentleman's friends. The services were in the parlors, which were crowded to their fullest capacity. The black casket was hidden beneath the mass of floral tributes. Mr. Burnett's fellow officials in the Treasury Department sent a magnificent garland of roses that completely encircled the coffin. His aged mother sent from Nebraska a magnificent bouquet of white roses, and a bouquet of Catherine Mermet roses was also sent from the Treasury Department. The Episcopalian services was impressively conducted by Rev Dr J H Elliott, rector of the Church of the Ascension. The remains were taken to Terre Haute, Indiana for burial.

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Jerome C Burnett - A Journalist Who Filled the Requirements of the Definition of Gentleman To The Full

Washington, June 11- At the last meeting of the Indiana Republican Association, Captain Allen, editor of "Public Opinion," read the following brief but beautiful eulogy of the late Jerome C Burnett, well known in Indiana journalism.

"As gentle as a woman and as manly as a man"- that is the best description I have ever seen of a gentleman.

That gentleness which is the natural expression of innate kindness of heart, and that manliness that comes of strong opinions and virile courage were characteristics of Jerome Burnett, whose friendship was my high pleasure to enjoy for almost a quarter of a century without a single interruption by shadow or cloud. I do not know what were his religious beliefs, for religion was never discussed between us, but I do know that in his words and acts he came as near fulfilling the golden rule as any man I have ever known. While he did not hesitate to condemn that which he thought wrong - to condemn, often, in strong terms - he was charitable in his judgements, taking into account all the circumstances bearing on the case under consideration, and uttering censure, not as if he liked to pick flaws, but as if he felt compelled to be true to himself.

I had made the acquaintance of our departed friend at Indianapolis in 1867. A few months later - early in 1868 - I became editor of the "Terre Haute Express," then the leading daily in that part of the state, and "J.C.B." became its Indianapolis correspondent, commissioned to write "staff" letters, giving opinions and forecasts as well as the news of the day. This position he held for several years and filled it in a manner that left nothing to be desired. His style was graceful, often displaying rare elegance of diction, and his statements of fact were always reliable. No correction, no apology, no retraction was ever demanded by any of the hundreds of public men whose public acts or utterances he criticised. Occasionally he laid on the lash in lacerating style, but he never struck an unmerited blow. It was one of his many good habits to see that the mechanical execution of his literary work was all that the most exacting editor or printer could expect. In a journalistic experience covering thirty years or more, I have never handled such excellent copy as J.C.B.'s. In fact, it was a rule of his life to do good work in every thing in which he engaged. For 25 years he was a contributor to the press, writing for magazines, weekly and daily newspapers. He wrote political essays, financial articles, sketches of travel, personal recollections and anecdotes, and they were all creditable, all excellent. But the work he best loved was poetry, and he wrote verses that will live in their purity and sweetness when all of his heavier efforts are forgotten. He was a devout lover of nature and his pen was apt in descriptions of natural scenery. It has often seemed to me a strange incongruity that a man so full of sentiment as Jerome Burnett, with a heart beating with sentiment for every cause that ever appealed to sentiment, should have for the actual business of his life the keeping and counting of state and national securities, that a man whose feelings found fitting, graceful and natural expression in verse, should give his time to columns of figures - the least sentimental of all work. But our friend distinction for great capacity and fidelity in the Auditor's Office in Indianapolis and in the Treasury Department in Washington. Neither our good state of Indiana nor the United States has ever had a more faithful servant, and we who enjoyed his friendship will never have nor lose a truer friend.

In the beautiful valley of the Wabash and near the city of Terre Haute where many of his happiest days were passed and where his memory is held dear, the mortal part of our friend and brother will molder back to kindred dust. But the influence of his example of his fidelity in every way will remain to make the world happier and better.