

office and entered at once into active practice. There are very few instances at the Indiana bar in which such a rapid advance in the profession has been made as in the case of Judge Heller. His law practice was remunerative almost from the very start, and his clear-headed conception of the points of a case, his logical way of bringing them home to a jury, as well as his vigilance and attention to the interests of his clients, soon brought him prominently forward among the younger members of the bar, and secured him respectful recognition among the veterans. Possessing many elements which made him personally popular, not only at the bar, but in the community outside, and entering with a keen zest into the political contests of the day, he soon began to be regarded as a young man of mark, while his social qualities won him hosts of friends. In 1876 he received the Republican nomination for prosecuting attorney of the Criminal Circuit Court of Indianapolis, and was elected for the term of two years ending November 4, 1878. No comment upon his success as a prosecutor is necessary, further than to say that his record was so satisfactory that in March, 1878, he was nominated Judge of the same court, and the following October he was elected, when he resigned the office of prosecuting attorney, and on the 23d of October, 1878, took his seat on the bench, which he has occupied ever since, with the prospect of continuing in the same position for some time to come. His administration has been most active, and the number of important cases tried unprecedented. The penalties prescribed for the violation of the criminal laws of the state have been rigidly enforced in all cases where no reasonable doubt existed of the guilt of the accused. Nine murder cases were tried during a period of eighteen months. Three of the prisoners were sentenced to suffer the extreme penalty of the law, four were imprisoned in the penitentiary, and two acquitted. In a single case the judgment of the lower court was reversed by the Supreme Court, and a new trial resulted in the same penalty prescribed on the first trial. At first there was considerable opposition manifested to Judge Heller's nomination and election, based entirely upon his youth and comparative inexperience; but his capacity for the judicial position has been so signally demonstrated, and his legal ability and strict impartiality having stood every test that has been applied, opposition has been disarmed, and he was nominated by acclamation for the second term. The universal verdict is that the Criminal Court of Marion County has never been presided over with more ability, and with higher regard for law and precedent, than during his administration. Judge Heller has long been a member of the Masonic Order, passing through the Blue Lodge when he reached his twenty-first year. Two years later he became a member of Thirty-second Degree, Scottish Rite; became Royal Arch Mason, in

York Rite, in 1866, and a Knight Templar in 1879. His family consists of a wife and four children, three sons and a daughter.

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HINTON, JAMES S., of Indianapolis, was born at Raleigh, North Carolina, on the twenty-fifth day of December, 1834. His father, John Cook Hinton, was born at Fayetteville, North Carolina, and, as he was particularly skilled in the manufacture of sky-lights, he traveled extensively in his own state and in South Carolina. He was successful in his business, and at his death, in 1850, left his family in comfortable circumstances. In his early life he united with the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he maintained a good and regular standing until his earthly mission was finished. Hannah (Mitchell) Hinton, his mother, was a native of Raleigh, North Carolina, of free birth, like her husband, and an active, zealous worker in the Methodist Episcopal Church. She was a very intelligent lady, of considerable musical ability, giving instruction on the piano to various circles of white citizens. In 1832 she was married to John C. Hinton, and, in 1848, they moved westward, locating in Terre Haute, Vigo County, Indiana. James S. Hinton began his education at Terre Haute, by his attendance upon the subscription school taught there by a colored gentleman, which school he attended for four years in succession, at the expiration of which time he went to a school whose standard of scholarship was higher, under the supervision of the Quakers, at Hartford, Vigo County, where he remained two years. Subsequently, he went to Greenville, Darke County, Ohio, where he took a course of collegiate training at the Greenville Institute, Professor R. G. Tucker at that time being president. When he had completed his studies at Greenville, some white philanthropists at Terre Haute interested themselves in him, and urged him to go to Liberia, to do what might lie in his power for his race there. He entered the office of Doctor George W. Clippinger, to read medicine, in a plan the fulfillment of which provided for his location in Liberia in the practice of his profession. He busied himself in this preparation two years, during which time Edward J. Roy, second president of Liberia, and a graduate of Oberlin, Ohio, returned to his native city, Terre Haute. For a time Mr. Hinton drove a huckster wagon; then he learned the barber trade, which he followed for three years, when he left that vocation and commenced teaching. He taught in Vigo County, Indiana, three years, when he moved to Indianapolis in 1862; since which time he has resided here. Upon coming to the city he opened a real estate and intelligence office, and in this business he was engaged till 1867. In 1862, at the opening of the Rebellion, he tendered his services

to the Governor of this State; but, as there were no colored regiments organizing here, he went to Massachusetts, with a letter of introduction from Governor Morton to Governor Andrews, of that state. There he received a commission to recruit for the 54th and 55th Colored Regiments. He served in this capacity for seven months, when, in April, 1863, he was mustered into the United States service, but, on account of a defective right eye, he was rejected; whereupon Governor Andrews offered him the sutlership of the 55th Regiment, but, as he could not serve as a private soldier, he declined this honor. On his return to Indiana, Governor Morton proffered him the position of recruiting officer, with the rank of second lieutenant, which he accepted. The 28th Regiment of United States colored troops—of eleven hundred men—was in a camp situated in the south-east part of the city, and known as Camp Fremont. Considerable time was spent in organizing and fitting the regiment for service, but at the end of one year they were ordered to the front, in January, 1864. What each man contributed to the successful issue of the war we can never know; but every one who came forward ready to lay down his life for his country deserves our deepest gratitude. He served as a canal commissioner of Indiana four years—from January, 1874, to the same month in 1878—for two of which years he had at his disposal the large fund of the company, which sufficiently attests the confidence reposed in him by those who knew him best. Finally, however, he checked it out, paid it over, and got an acquittance from the Governor. He was an elector at large; himself and Hon. Frederick Douglass being the only two colored men in the Northern States who served in that capacity. He is a member of the fraternities of Masons and Odd-fellows, in the former of which he began with the Knight Templar degree, and in both of which he has proved worthy of his membership and faithful to his trust. He was for a number of years Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Colored Masons of Indiana, which position he resigned in 1878. Mr. Hinton was for a time in the mail service, being employed six months in the postal department of Indianapolis, which position he then resigned. He was the first colored grand jurymen ever chosen in Marion County. Jesse L. Williams, civil engineer of the Wabash and Erie Canal, received his appointment from the Canal Board, composed of Thomas Dowling, treasurer; Charles Butler, secretary, and James S. Hinton, president. He was also for many years a trustee of the Wilberforce University, and is at this date, May, 1879. It is easy to do what circumstances seem to favor; but, in a career like Mr. Hinton's much must have been against him, much had to be overcome, many trials and disappointments were there to be borne, but in due proportion these all increase the amount of credit

which attaches to his success. He is a Republican, but has a legion of friends and admirers in the Democratic party, and among the citizens of Indianapolis. Mr. Hinton is of medium height and compactly built. He has an erect and stately carriage, and is possessed of easy, though dignified manners; is graceful, and is also a fluent and entertaining conversationalist and public speaker. He has a strong, well-modulated, and pleasing voice, and when making political speeches upon the hustings, or delivering literary addresses from the rostrum, he has no difficulty in making himself heard, and distinctly too, at the farthest limits of an audience, though large, so clear is his voice and perfect his enunciation. Taking him all in all, Mr. Hinton is a remarkable man, of great probity of character, and of high social and political standing among all classes throughout Indiana and elsewhere where known. He is a useful citizen and an honor to his race.

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HODGSON, ISAAC, architect, of Indianapolis, was born in Belfast, North Ireland, December 16, 1826. His paternal grandfather was Isaac Hodgson; his maternal grandfather, William Patton, was a captain in the British army, and did service during the stormy times of 1798. On one occasion he was captured by the enemy, and saved his life by giving, as a last resort, the Masonic hailing sign of distress. The subject of this sketch was the son of Jackson and Eliza (Patton) Hodgson, and was one of eleven children. His mother was born in camp, and led the life of the barracks until she had reached the age of fifteen. Isaac attended the parochial schools and Royal Academy during his early youth, and at the age of sixteen entered the office of Charles Lanyard, afterwards Sir Charles, a well-known architect. Here he remained three years, and in 1848 he sailed for the new world, landing in New York. In that place he met the family of his uncle, who had emigrated at an early date; had been lieutenant of a battery in the War of 1812, and afterwards colonel of a New York regiment. He left New York for the growing West, and, reaching Decatur, Indiana, he remained there two years, pursuing his profession, and marrying Miss Mary Ann Edwards, a lady of Scotch descent, and daughter of a leading merchant and mill-owner of the county. In 1849 he went to Louisville, Kentucky, and became assistant architect in the government buildings then being erected. On the completion of this work, he removed to Indianapolis, where he still resides, and where numerous buildings, public and private, attest his skill. During the late war Mr. Hodgson had charge, as architect and superintendent, of the arsenal buildings. The court-houses in Marion, and many other counties in this and adjoining