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William Perry Rogers (1896-1902)

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In Memoriam

W. P. Rogers

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In Memoriam



In the life of Judge Banta there is so much to be emulated that mere words of description seem meaningless.

How can you describe the spirit of one you have learned to admire? For after all, is it not the spirit of the individual which charms you and challenges your love? For years you may know one's form and features well, and yet be unacquainted with the real man—with his intellectual culture—with the highest impulses of his nature. If you would learn those best, go with him in his avocation. There you stand in the sunshine of his spirit, close enough to look in upon the soul, and see the beauties of his highest self. So one learned to know Judge Banta. The dearest memories of him recall the rippling stream, the bursting leaf and blossom of the woods, and transform the spring-time day itself into a poem of beauty inexpressible.

He loved nature with all the warmth of his heart, and found in every flower an evidence of God. But he was no idle dreamer, for he saw and met life's realities.

As a citizen he stood for, and sought to maintain, all that is highest and best in government; as a lawyer he enjoyed the fullest confidence of the public, and the highest respect of the court; as a judge he was painstaking in research and fearless in announcing his conclusions; as a teacher he was magnetic, clear and inspiring. His life was well rounded, and was an exemplification of a genuine Christian gentleman—the highest style of American manhood.

W. P. ROGERS.