The News and Herald

TRI-WEEKLY EDITION.

JUDGE BRADLEY.

Personal Points About the Fifth Judge --His Career asa Lawyer and Politician.

WASHINGTON, January 31.—The Congressional Directory of Ben Perley Poore, the veteran journalist of the capital, will tell who Mr. Justice Bradley is—where he was born and when, what offices he held and when, and all such statistical facts, but such an etching of his character as may be dashed off in a two minutes' conversation by one who knows him may not be uninteresting at this juncture, when his choice as the fifth Judge makes him properly conceded to be as much the President-maker as ever the renowned Warwick was the King-maker. His home is Newark, and he stood alongside of Chancellor Williamson, Browning and that class of men at the head of the New Jersey bar— being a most thoroughly furnished lawyer. But he longed for other worlds to conquer. His temperament, which showed itself to the world every now and then, indicated that he would not be satisfied with the regimen laid down by that jealous mistress, the law, of "scorning delights and living laborious day," so he wandered occasionally into the paths of politics, where he could indulge his inclination to lose his temper when he felt like it, even to the extent of ripping out an oath when he thought it necessary, notwithstanding his vestrymanship in the Episcopal Church.

The younger bar are fond of telling a story or two on him which denote in some degree his temperament. When asked by a client once who was very anxious to have his case pushed against Bradley's advice whether chancery was open to them that day, "Yes," ried he, "h—l and chancery are always open." He wanted to catch a train one day, and his wife delayed him so much, while sewing a button on his breeches, that after having missed the train he came home in such a towering rage that he took the scissors nd cut the garments into pieces. After his mark at the bar he was noted as the leading managing counsel of the Camden and Amboy Railroad Company in its most powerful days.

WHAT JUDGE BRADLEY'S POLITICS USED TO BE.

As General Crook used to say, through his nose: "My politics and Bradley's are Camden and Amboy." He and poor Markley, whose body was found in the river a year or so ago, were well known about Washington years ago, when the Raritan Railroad Company was trying to get the franchise for an air line between Washington and New York. The bill finally passed, under the manipulation of Asbel Green the very man who was defeated the other day for United Senator, Henry M. Alexander, of New York, and James M. Scovel, of Camden, but it was so crippled with amendments as to make it practically useless. So that Bradley was successful in crushing out this formidable rival. All this while he was a good deal of a politician, but was like many another who could lift other men into official seats but couldn't lift himself. Three times he was defeated for Congress, always running on a straight Republican ticket, however. Those defeats seemed to sour him with people, but did not lessen his allegiance to the Republican party. It is said that he was largely instrumental in the passage of the anti-slavery amendment to the Constitution by using his influence in keeping out of their seats enough New Jersey Democrats to give that amendment a two-thirds vote in the House.

HIS PART IN THE LEGAL TENDER ACT DECISION.

The decision of the legal tender act's unconstitutionality by a majority of the Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice Chase, about this time made it absolutely necessary to injectinto that court enough Judges committed to the constitutionality of that great war measure as to cause the reconsideration of the first decision. Mr. Bradley, leading counsel of the wealthy link between Pensylvania and New York, was pointed out as one of the two Judges who would best subserve the purpose by enabling the court to reverse the decision of themselves which would permit the greater corporation to pay the interest on their bonds in paper instead of hard money. Ex-Judge Strong, who, while on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court bench, had pronounced unequivocally in favor of the constitutionality of the act made up the necessary duet, and the crow was eaten in due form without sauce. New Orleans fell in his circuit, and the celebrated Grant Parish cases came before him on appeal from Judge Woods, of the Circuit Court. The prisoners were indited under the enforcement acts of Congress, and he reversed the dicision below and decided that these acts were unconstitutional, and the Supreme Court in banc affirmed his decision.

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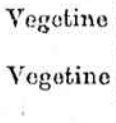

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feb 1

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