



HON. SOLOMON LUCAS,
State's Attorney.

THE present state's attorney, Hon. Solomon Lucas, of this city, has for many years been known as one of the ablest members of the New London county bar. He is a native of Norwich and was born April 1, 1836. He was one of the youngest of a family of ten and was left an orphan at the early age of eight years, which necessitated his earning his own living. Left scantily provided for, he was put on a farm to work for his board and clothes, where he remained until 16 years of age, his education being obtained by attending district school winters and by studying summers after his day's work was done. He then entered the Potter Hill mills at Westerly, R. I., where he

worked as an operative for a period of three years. At 19, although his education up to that time was necessarily very limited, he chose his profession and entered the law office of Hon. John T. Wait, teaching school winters and reading law summers. During his reading of law he also attended the Albany Law School, continuing in the office of Mr. Wait until admitted to the bar, also teaching school for two years at Greeneville. He was admitted to the bar in April, 1861, at the same term as ex-Gov. Waller, and soon after commenced practice in this city. He took up his residence in Preston, and, becoming interested in politics, was elected to represent that town in the state legislature in 1863. Although at that stormy time the youngest member of the house, he was soon recognized by the members as one to take an active part in the proceedings. Without being an unappreciative recipient of the political honors conferred upon him by his townsmen, he declined a second nomination. That he might give his full time and attention to his profession he has also refused to accept the nomination for any political office since.

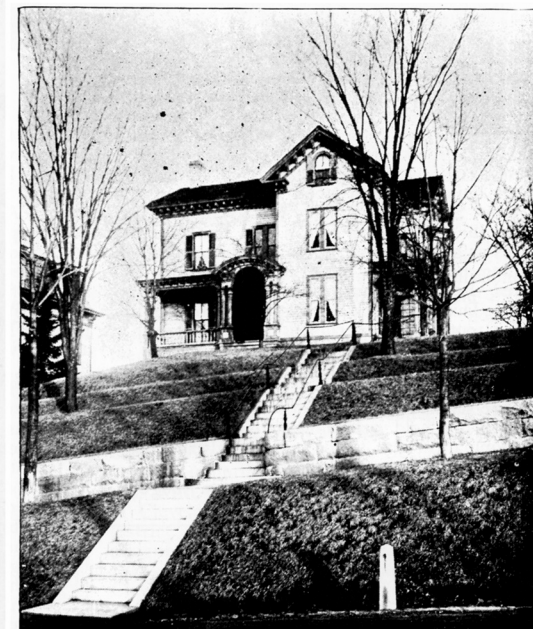
A few years after commencing practice Mr. Lucas built his present residence and has devoted himself wholly to his law business. He was appointed state's attorney for New London county in 1889, which position he has since ably filled, being pronounced by the senior members of the bar as one of the most efficient state's attorneys the county has ever had. Quoting from a well known biographical writer "Mr. Lucas as a lawyer is most persistent, taking a tenacious, unrelenting grip of the matter at hand with loyal devotion to the interests of his client,—never more manifest than when his client is the state. He has also a capacity for sustained hard work, for which his whole life has been a training. The position he now holds gives him a wide field for his natural talent for his profession. Among his characteristic qualities his formidable power as an examiner of witnesses makes him a terror to conscious criminals and willful perjurers."

A veteran lawyer who has had the opportunity of knowing him, both as an associate and antagonist, speaks of him as a "bright, keen, successful lawyer, earnestly devoted to his profession, one who takes great care of his client and is not dismayed by any opposition. He has been the architect of his own fortune and deserves great credit for winning the high position he occupies as an attorney and advocate."

Mr. Lucas has always been prominently identified with public movements and is a most enterprising citizen. He is well versed in matters pertaining to the welfare of the city and having from the proceeds of a successful practice accumulated much property, is largely interested in real estate. Lucas building, standing at the corner of Shetucket and Little Water streets, has been improved by him to a marked degree. It is now one of the largest, most desirable and best paying business blocks in Norwich. This structure is utilized for stores and offices and also contains a commodious hall known as Lucas hall, which is in frequent demand by the public. He is also the

largest owner of real estate at East Great Plain. The marked increase in the value of the property in that locality was brought about by the introduction of improvements made through his instrumentality.

Mr. Lucas's residence, located on Laurel Hill avenue, is a good sample of the many comfortable homes which the city possesses. Pleasantly overlooking the city, giving a picturesque view of the river, it is also beautifully located.



RESIDENCE OF HON. SOLOMON LUCAS, LAUREL HILL AVENUE.

This list is from the Connecticut Register and Manual published by the State, 1921.

The pages that follow are dedicated to the memory of Solomon Lucas, Seneca S. Thresher, Augustus Brandagee, and Jeremiah Halsey, men whom in their lifetime the members of the New London county bar have delighted to honor. The chapter finishes with an eloquent address historical in character.

SOLOMON LUCAS—The memorial meeting of the New London County Bar in honor of the memory of Solomon Lucas, long State's attorney for New London county, was held in Norwich, November 9, 1906. Addresses were delivered by State's Attorney Hadlai A. Hull, Abel P. Tanner, Jeremiah A. Desmond, and John H. Barnes. Mr. Tanner's address follows:

A conspicuous member of this bar for many years, a leader in his chosen profession, has reached the mystic shore that all the dead have reached and whence it is said no voyager returns. Today we come as friends to speak his eulogy, to tell who and what he was, and what he did, and we strive to preserve for future times some measure of his fame. In choosing his niche in memory we come again upon the names of illustrious men who have been lawyers here—Pratt, Foster, Crump, Lippitt, Hovey, Park, Halsey, Wait, Brandagee, these were giants in our profession and it is some consolation to reflect that in distant years our brother will be reckoned among these classic men.

Solomon Lucas was born in Norwich, Connecticut, of English parentage, in 1835. At that time Andrew Jackson was President of the United States and a little while before had coined the famous: "The Union, it must and shall be preserved." Curiously indeed, when twenty-six years later our friend came to this bar (April, 1861) that sentiment had become the slogan of the North in the momentous issue of the Civil War. Already its people had been startled by the fall of Sumter, when for the first time in this Republic they saw the American flag lowered in surrender to foes who were their own countrymen. In this exciting period Mr. Lucas was chosen to the legislature of this State. His distinguished townsman, William A. Buckingham, was governor, and though differing from him in politics he helped sustain the loyal purpose of that splendid man. But retiring at the close of the session of 1863, never to hold political office again, he devoted the remainder of his life to the practice of law.

Mr. Lucas was a man of consummate ability and worth. A child of plain New England people, starting in life poor and with many limitations, he rose by his own exertions to the highest rank in his profession—he was for seventeen years State's Attorney for this county—and he finished his eminent career with credit and honor. His life is an object lesson to every American boy who climbs the winding ways to wealth and fame. We see the slender country boy working on the farm for his board and clothes; we see the student in the law school at Albany laying the foundation for future success; we see him as a country schoolmaster teaching others the way of knowledge, toiling for the meagre wages of fifty years ago; we see him later in the office of Counsellor Wait, the eager student exploring the sources of the common law; at last we see him at the bar practicing in all the courts of the state, the apt and finished lawyer of his time. In all conditions he was a candid, sincere, useful man. The friend of social order, he sought in modest ways to raise the standard of civic duty. He was an accomplished advocate, a brilliant cross examiner, in argument fluent, forcible and convincing. A careful manager, but aggressive, and with marvelous endurance, he expressed his cause with vigor, and once engaged he never left the field until the last manoeuvre had been tried and the last stand had failed. And yet as a counsel he was usually sound, the cautious adviser who never failed.

It would be superfluous to call him a fearless prosecutor, an honest and faithful public servant. In the coming years we will cherish a grateful remembrance of his fidelity in official station and the virtue and simplicity of his private life. He did not claim to be a perfect man. Doubtless he had the faults and foibles, the infirmities which are common to our race. His continuity of purpose and the desire to always accomplish what he undertook, may have sometimes made him seem severe; but to those who knew him at home and in the social circle he was considerate, he was affable, he was kind. We shall not recall unmoved his death in the court room when absent from home and family friends. After all there is no pathos like that of the unspoken farewell when fate overwhelms us at the bend in the road. But in this world we cannot always live. Here where blossoms wither at last, the oak ceases to be clothed with the leaves of spring. And so our friend "after life's fitful fever" rests unperturbed in the serenity of death, as when some craft on ocean currents tossed for many days, lies in the calm of the last harbor with sails forever furled.

Mr. Lucas was a consistent, active member of the Congregational church. Imbued in life with the faith of the Christian fathers, he carried through all the years the solace of unfailing hope. He was conversant with the metaphor of the ancients, they to whom each day was a symbol of human life—the crimson of morning; the midday of splendor; the waning afternoon; the gold of sunset; the creeping shadows, and at last the darkness of the night—and he believed that somewhere "night wakes up morning for the endless day."

And so we, sustained by the same hope, will look to meet again these classic men, in brighter spheres where strife and conflict never come and friendship never fails.

LUCAS Solomon Lucas, an honored and prominent member of the New London county bar, was born April 1, 1835, in Norwich, Connecticut, sixth son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Miles) Lucas, both of whom were natives of Trowbridge, Wiltshire, England.

Mr. Lucas was entirely a self-educated man. He was left an orphan when only ten years old and, with no provision made for his support, his life became one of toil upon the farm and in the factory until he attained the age of nineteen years. Nothing daunted by the fact that his education at this time consisted simply of what he had been able to learn in the country schools, he resolutely set about fitting himself for his chosen profession, that of the law. By studying evenings and teaching school he was enabled to take a course in the Albany Law School, after which he read law for a time in the office of the Hon. John T. Wait, in Norwich, and was admitted to the New London county bar in 1861, from which time to the very moment of his death he continued in active practice. Mr. Lucas' career at the bar was a successful and an honorable one. He was a thorough master of the deep-lying principles of law, and his untiring industry, his keen insight, and his faithfulness to the interests of his clients won for him confidence and a place in the very front ranks of the profession. In the preparation of cases he was painstaking to the last degree, and in their trial was forceful and alert. In 1889 he was appointed state's attorney for New London county, an office for which he was admirably fitted, and which he held with distinction until his death. His power as a cross-examiner of witnesses made him a terror to evil-doers. He was fearless in the discharge of his duties, and although at heart kind and sympathetic, he never allowed his feelings to interfere with his strong sense of justice. He deeply recognized the truth that he stood as the protector of the law-abiding community against the criminal. In 1863 Mr. Lucas represented the town of Pres-

ton in the legislature. Although one of the younger members, he won the approval of his constituents and gained recognition throughout the state. After this brief term of service he persistently refused to accept any political office, preferring to give his whole time and energy to the growing demands of his profession. As a citizen Mr. Lucas was enterprising and public-spirited. He gave his services and keen penetration freely to the town, and his private enterprises were of a character to add to the general welfare. The same loyalty and devotion were shown in his relations with the Second Congregational Church of Norwich, of which he was a member for forty-two years.

Mr. Lucas married, June 22, 1864, Elizabeth A., daughter of the late Hiram Crosby, of Norwich. His wife died ten years later and he remained a widower to the close of his life. Two daughters, Nancy E. and Mary C. Lucas, survive him.

The death of Mr. Lucas was extremely sudden, occurring March 13, 1906, in the supreme court room at Norwich, while he was in the full tide of professional activity. It was felt as a public bereavement and many tributes of respect and admiration were offered to his memory. Mr. Lucas was a man of simple tastes, fond of outdoor life and nature, but found his chief pleasure in his home. Only those who knew him intimately understood his deep, affectionate nature. He was a man of superb physical and moral courage and the world is better for his life.