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took the public, the Bar, and even his own intimate friends by surprise, for, up to the day it was announced, he had held the Courts, as well as discharged the duties of Chambers, with all his accustomed energy and assiduity. The first public announcement was in the early part of October last, and a few extracts from the public journals may serve to show the feeling that prevailed. "As we go to press, we notice the retirement of His Honor James Robert Gowan. * * Those only, and the circle of these is no limited one, who know of his learning, his large and ripened experience, and his great service to the country in numberless ways, can measure the loss this will be to the Bench, of which he was *facile princeps*. * * Judge Gowan occupies as strong a position in the hearts of his friends and acquaintances, from his high personal character, as from his judicial excellence. A kind thoughtfulness for others, and a benevolent disposition, endeared him to the community in which he has heretofore passed his long and useful life. Spotless purity, entire freedom from undue influence, and an earnest desire to do justice, have characterized him as a judge. Great force of character, combined with cordiality and courtesy of demeanour, and a high consideration for the performance of his duties, have distinguished him as a citizen. * * He takes with him into his well earned retirement, the best wishes of a large circle of friends and admirers for his future health and happiness; and we trust that, in some way or another, the