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CHARLES DENISON, the third son and child of Zina Denison, of New Haven, and grandson of John Denison, of East Haven, was born in New Haven on February 23, 1778. His mother was Martha, youngest daughter of Stephen and Martha (Thompson) Austin, of East Haven. Two nephews were graduates at Yale, in 1824 and 1826, respectively. At the age of twelve he lost his father.

He served as Tutor in Williams College for two years, 1797-99, and then for two years at Yale.

Resigning this office in October, 1801, he pursued the study of law in New Haven under Judge Charles Chauncey, and was admitted to the bar here in March, 1802.

His talents and application soon gave him an assured position at the bar. He was City Attorney from 1803 to 1807, served as Alderman from 1806 to 1815, and was Clerk of the United States District Court from October, 1803, to 1806. The esteem in which he was held secured his continuous employment as one of the representatives of the town in the State Legislature from October, 1809, to May, 1817, when an increasing weakness of the lungs obliged him to withdraw. He had been one of the Clerks of the Assembly for eight sessions, and Speaker during the last four sessions of his service.

He subsequently declined a nomination to Congress in 1816, and was again elected to the Legislature in 1820.

He died at the residence which he had built in 1815, on the west side of Temple Street, between Wall and Grove streets, in New Haven, from pulmonary disease, after a final illness of a very few days, on June 25, 1825, in his 48th year.

He was married in New Haven, by the Rev. Dr. Bela Hubbard, on May 4, 1806, to Hannah, daughter of Edmund French, a sea-captain of New Haven, who was born in Yarmouth, England, and his wife, Hannah.

She died in New Haven, very suddenly, on March 17, 1807, in her 29th year; and he was next married on December 23, 1810, by Dr. Hubbard, to Mary, the eldest child of Dr. Thomas R. and Rebecca (Tomlinson) Pynchon, of Guilford, who died on November 9, 1869, in her 86th year.

His children, by his second wife, were two daughters, besides a son who died in infancy.

His early death was regarded as a severe public loss; and the monument erected in his memory mourns with justice that "a superior and cultivated intellect, eminent professional attainments, distinguished public and private usefulness, the affectionate devotion of friends, the confidence and favor of the community won by unyielding integrity, and by the exercise of the Christian virtues, could not save this lamented man from the grave."

From childhood he was a devout, but not a bigoted member of the Episcopal Church, and shortly before his death he incurred the disapproval of some of his stricter fellow-churchmen by acting as chairman of a public meeting held in New Haven for the purpose of forming an auxiliary to the American Bible Society.

He was an affectionate friend of his classmate, Professor Silliman, and also of President Day. A number of his letters are quoted in Professor Silliman's Life; and others to President Day and to Chief Justice David Daggett are preserved in manuscript in the Yale Library.

AUTHORITIES.

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