Legislature of Illinois a valuable charter drafted by himself, in face of a vigorous local opposition, of which, as the late President Lincoln told me with the utmost good humor, he was the organizer and spokesman. Feb. 22, 1851, he took his seat in the United States Senate, to fill a short, unexpired term vacated by Mr. Webster's acceptance of the State Department. In December following he took a seat in the United States House of Representatives and died at Washington, during the first session of the XXXII Congress, August 7, 1852.

His exhaustive report on Capital Punishment, addressed to the Legislature of 1836, together with later writings on that subject, have been widely and highly commended. In April, 1852, he appeared in defence of Thomas Sims, the first fugitive slave surrendered by Massachusetts under the new act of 1850, and took a position which he had before announced in addressing his constituents at Lynn, April 3, 1851, and afterwards reiterated on the floor of Congress, June 11, 1852, and again before his constituents at Mechanic Hall, Salem, July 5,—a position which had the sanction of Mr. Webster's better judgment but which that statesman had abandoned in deference to the views of others (Appendix to Congressional Globe, Vol. XXII, part 1st, p. 274) namely, that the Constitutional provision for the rendition of fugitives from service and labor was an injunction addressed to the states as an obligation to be discharged by them and contained no grant of power to the general government.

The personal bearing and characteristics of Robert Rantoul, Jr., may be gathered from a paper by Hon. Nathan Crosby on "Distinguished Men of Essex County" (Essex Inst. Hist. Col. XVII, p. 163, *et seq.*). Also from a citation from the New York Evening Post (Memoirs, Speeches and Writings, p. 311), and from a portrait