

writer of this memoir: "On the 12th of July, as you know, I received the unanimous nomination of our Democratic convention for circuit judge. I am elected—and the only regular nominee chosen in the State. Our circuit court is composed of five judges, who likewise comprise the supreme court. I certainly very much distrust my fitness for the station. I know I have mind and firmness enough; but, then, I am such a lazy dog. However, I am at work, and shall keep at it." He served ten years most acceptably on the bench, having been once re-elected; and he served also in the capacity of an associate judge of the supreme court—the circuit judges constituting the court until the new supreme court was chosen, and went into operation in 1853. In 1852, Judge Larrabee was the nominee of his party for chief justice, but failed of an election.

Nominated as a candidate for Congress in 1858, he resigned, in October of that year, his seat upon the bench—"at the urgent solicitation," he says, "of Stephen A. Douglas, who wanted to show his anti-Lecompton strength in the Northwest, in view of the Charleston convention of 1860. I overcame 2,500 Republican majority in the district, and was elected by 1,200 majority," but when running for a re-election in 1860, he was swept under with Judge Douglas. During his term in Congress, he represented, as was said at the time, the largest district in point of population in the Union, numbering 350,000 people.

In December, 1859, Judge Larrabee took his seat in Congress, at a very exciting period of our nation's history, preceding the outbreak of the impending Civil War. "The struggle for the speakership," says Hon. F. W. Horn, "when that Congress met, is a matter of history—it was the last desperate effort of the South to gain the control of the house of representatives; and although Judge Larrabee's name was not brought forward for the speakership, yet it was, at one time, proposed to take him up as a compromise candidate; but his friendship for Mr. Douglas, and his being a new member, were in the way." Early in the session, Judge Larrabee delivered a very able speech, based on a supposed attack on the patriotism and loyalty of the Germans of Wisconsin; in which he placed himself fully on Judge Douglas' platform