

William Garrett, Reminiscences of Public Men in Alabama - 1872 prospectus, preface and indexes

Text PDF - selected reading excerpt

Title, To the Public notice and complete two-page preface, supplied PDF images 3, 5, 7 and 8. All 20 scan pages, including indexes and blanks, retained in the original PDF. Indexes not included in the checked reading transcript.

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REMINISCENCES OF PUBLIC MEN IN ALABAMA, FOR THIRTY YEARS. WITH AN APPENDIX.
BY WILLIAM GARRETT, LATE SECRETARY OF STATE.

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TO THE PUBLIC.

This work, handsomely printed and bound - 809 pages, octavo - is now ready for subscribers. It will be found on sale at most of the Book-Stores in Alabama, at Four Dollars per copy. The character of the work is shown by the Preface and Indexes hereunto subjoined.

[Supplied PDF images 7-8]

PREFACE.

It is deemed necessary to state, that the Author was requested by a number of friends who knew his long connection with the Government, to prepare "Reminiscences of Public Men in Alabama," as a contribution to the history of the times, which could not fail to be of general interest. Prompted by this suggestion, he ventured upon the task, believing that it was a duty he owed his fellow-citizens to lay before them the results of his observation and experience during a period which embraced the most distinguished actors on the public stage, and the most stirring events which have occurred since the State passed from its Territorial condition. His memory has thus been exercised to gather up and preserve, in the form of narrative and description, many things which otherwise would have perished, as no man living, except himself, had the same opportunities to acquire, by personal contact with men, the minute knowledge embodied in this work.

When the Author decided to make the attempt for publication, his chief inquiry, within himself, was, Where shall I find the materials to fill the proposed volume? As he progressed, new stores opened to him, and such has been their abundance, that the embarrassing question now is, How shall I select, and what shall I be compelled to leave out, after diligent revision of the manuscript, which has grown far beyond the limits prescribed to the work? This is no small difficulty in his mind. He has endeavored, however, to observe such a course as he deemed most satisfactory to the public, omitting large documentary extracts which, in many instances,

would have illustrated more fully the measures of legislation to which they applied. The substance, however, has been given in most cases, without the formal amplification.

With regard to the characters introduced, the Author takes occasion to say, that they are such as, in his judgment, belonged prominently to the times and circumstances of which he treated. Some of them have a National fame, and others, not so well known abroad, have a distinguished reputation at Home. The Author, however, deems it no sacrifice of feeling or of taste to confess, that his sympathies and his sense of justice have induced him to rescue from neglect, and perhaps from oblivion, many names of less pretension, but of solid, practical worth. A number of such are specially noticed.

Besides the matter which is arranged in distinct chapters, constituting the main body of the work, the Appendix includes a Roll of the General Assembly from 1819 to 1872; a Roll of the Judges of the Supreme and Circuit Courts, and of the Attorney Generals and District Solicitors for the same period; of the Senators and Representatives in the Congress of the United States, and other condensed records which, upon examination, will, no doubt, be welcomed by the general reader.

While the Author has furnished the facts and materials which form the staple of the work, and has bestowed much labor in their presentation, he takes pleasure in acknowledging the assistance which has been afforded by his personal friend, Major Stephen F. Miller, who was Editor of the "Monitor," at Tuscaloosa, from March, 1840, to October, 1847, and who, in 1843, wrote and published "Heads of the Alabama Legislature." Since 1849, Major Miller has resided in Georgia, where, among other works of which he is the author, is "The Bench and Bar of Georgia," in two volumes, published by J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia, in 1858. Especially is it due to him to say, that the extracts incorporated in the notices of public men, showing, from their speeches and letters, the part they acted, and the sentiments they entertained, have been supplied from the large collection of documents and pamphlets which have been preserved by Major Miller, in bound volumes, now forming a part of his Library.

With these observations as to the origin and progress of the work, the Author submits it to the People of Alabama, in whose service he has passed more than thirty years, embracing the prime of his manhood. Nor would it be proper to omit, here, the expression of his grateful acknowledgments for the confidence and kindness always extended to him in his public and social relations.

W. G.

BRADFORD, NOVEMBER, 1872.