PUBLIC SERVICES OF JACOB DOLSON COX: GOVERNOR OF OHIO AND SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, A DISSERTATION

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Public Services of Jacob Dolson Cox: Governor of Ohio and Secretary of the Interior, A Dissertation by James Rees Ewing

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JAMES REES EWING

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PUBLIC SERVICES

OF

JACOB DOLSON COX

Governor of Ohio and Secretary of the Interior

JAMES REES EWING

A DISSERTATION

SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF UNIVERSITY STUDIES OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY IN CONFORMITY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY, FEBRUARY, 1899



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PREFACE.

THESE pages form a portion of a monograph which attempts to point out the extent and value of the life services of JACOB DOLSON Cox. His official life is here separated from a biographical essay which devotes attention for the most part to the military career of that distinguished citizen. The writer wishes to express his thanks to friends who have kindly assisted him, and especially to Professor P. V. N. Myers, of the University of Cincinnati, save for whom this sketch would never have appeared.

Denison University Library, Granville, Ohio, October 1, 1898.

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INTRODUCTION.

JACOB DOLSON COX was born October 27, 1828, in Montreal, Canada. On his mother's side he is descended from Elder William Brewster, of the Mayflower, the Allyns of New London and Groton, Connecticut, and the Kenyons, of Connecticut. On his father's side the Coxes were of the family of Koch from Hanover, Germany, of whom one Michael Cox (Koch) immigrated in 1702, settling in New York City in 1705, soon after the conquest of the province of New York from the Dutch. Jacob Dolson Cox, Sr., received his name Dolson from his mother, Mary Dolson, of a family of Dutch settlers of Duchess County, New York.

Jacob D. Cox, Sr., became known as an important man in timber-farming by building a ship-house at Savannah, Georgia, for the navy yard of the United States. He was thereupon employed to go to Montreal, to frame the timber roofing of the Church of Notre Dame, which was for a long time the largest building of its kind on the American continent. His work also extended to the general superintendence of the construction of the building; therefore, he took his family there temporarily, and Jacob D. Cox, Jr., was born on foreign soil while his father was thus employed.

The childhood and youth of Cox were spent in New York City. He received the usual education in private schools of that time. In 1842, not expecting to be able to take a college education, in consequence of his father's business reverses resulting from the financial crisis of 1837 and 1838, he entered, as a law clerk, the office of Harrison and Ogden, equity lawyers of New York City. Mr. Harrison was comptroller of Trinity Church corporation, and chiefly occupied with the affairs of that corporation. Gouverneur Morris Ogden was a son of David B. Ogden, one of the most eminent jurists of New York City.

The law of New York then required, for admission to the bar, seven years' clerkship in a lawyer's office for everyone who had not a college education, and young Cox entered with that in view. Beginning at the age of fourteen, he would have been admitted