MEMOIR OF THE HON. SAMUEL HOWE: WITH OTHER NOTICES, BIOGRAPHICAL SERIES, VOL. I, NO. I

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649344093

Memoir of the Hon. Samuel Howe: With Other Notices, Biographical Series, Vol. I, No. I by Rufus Ellis

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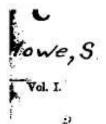
RUFUS ELLIS

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MEMOIR

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THE HON. SAMUEL HOWE.

WITH OTHER NOTICES.

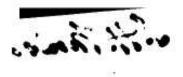
By REY. RUFUS ELLIS.

PUBLISHID BY THE

American Unitarian Association.

BOSTON: WM. CROSBY AND H. P. NICHOLS, 111 Washington Street. 1850.

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CAMBRIDGS: METCALF AND COMPANY, PRINTERS IN THE UNIVERSITY.

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The sources from which the materials for the following Memoir have been derived are mainly these :---A Sketch of the Life and Character of Hon. Samuel Howe, by Rev. E. B. Hall, D. D., of Providence, R. I. ; Addresses by Chief Justice Parker, and the Justices, Williams and Strong ; and a private Memoir in manuscript, by the widow of the late Judge Howe, to which the writer was kindly permitted to refer.

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It is the object of these pages to recommend a manly Christian life to young and active minds, to warm and earnest hearts, by presenting a picture of a truly wise and good man, who found great joy and much success in pursuing such a life as an end. An example is the best of arguments. No other plea can be so eloquent as that of a great moral achievement; it makes virtue real, it rescues goodness from the dream-regions of theory, and gives to truth a habitation upon our solid earth. And although the example of Christ is of infinite value, we need besides the quickening influence of lives purely human, - of lives of men wholly like ourselves, - of men who wrought no miracles, and who were joined to God only as we are joined to him. If those who shall read these pages are not quickened by the story inscribed

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upon them, the fault will not lie in the life, but in the unskilfulness of him who seeks to record it.

Twenty-one years have elapsed since the Hon. Samuel Howe, one of the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas for Massachusetts, was taken from us by the hand of death. His loss was widely and deeply felt, not only by the members of the profession which he honored and adorned, but by The sad event called the community at large. forth from every quarter eloquent and affectionate tributes to his memory, in which the high sense so generally entertained of his singular worth was fitly expressed. And he has not been forgotten. The name of such a man does not soon cease from human lips. The many who knew him well, the many who were made wiser and better through his influence, still speak with unfeigned sorrow of our loss, and feel that we are all the poorer because he was taken. He did not live, neither did he die, unto himself. But the story of his life has never been put within the reach of all who might be profited by it. It has not been told to the children who have come on to the stage since he left it. The delineations of his character to be found in pamphlets, reviews, and daily journals published at the time of his death, are not likely to come into their hands, who would be

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HON. SAMUEL HOWE.

guided aright, in the day of youth, by his example, an example for the young, of all others. We who were born into the views of religious truth which he laboriously sought, and found with so much joy, have not all heard of his spiritual experience of what was to him a happy emancipation. And in a world so full of evil, goodness should be saved, like treasure, not indeed to be hoarded, but to be scattered far and wide. Let the just live in blessed remembrance.

SAMUEL HOWE, the youngest of six children, was the son of Dr. Estes Howe, of Belchertown, Massachusetts, and was born on the 20th day of June, 1785. The maiden name of his mother was Susan Dwight. His grandfather, Samuel Howe, removed to Belchertown from Rutland, Massachusetts.

Dr. Howe was a surgeon in the army of the Revolution; he was an exceedingly laborious man in an exceedingly laborious sphere of duty, and though he did not become rich, he acquired enough for the suitable education of his children, and for his own support in the time of old age. The fruits of his labor were cheerfully bestowed upon his children, and he was especially desirous to secure for them that liberal culture, the want of which he himself sorely felt. Three months after

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