

**A SKETCH OF THE LIFE
AND PUBLIC
SERVICES OF WILLIAM
ADAMS RICHARDSON**

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A sketch of the life and public services of William Adams Richardson by Frank Warren
Hackett

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FRANK WARREN HACKETT

**A SKETCH OF THE LIFE
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ADAMS RICHARDSON**



William A. Richardson

A SKETCH OF THE LIFE AND
PUBLIC SERVICES

OF

WILLIAM ADAMS RICHARDSON

BY

FRANK WARREN HACKETT

Privately Printed

WASHINGTON

1898



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TO THE READER.

It was my good fortune to make the acquaintance of William Adams Richardson upwards of thirty years ago, when both of us were living at Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was then judge of probate and insolvency for Middlesex county, while I had but recently opened a law office in Boston. For a brief season we met daily at the table of the famous boarding house kept by Miss Upham, on Kirkland street, near the college.

Early in 1873 my removal to Washington, where I have ever since practiced my profession, afforded me an opportunity, which I was glad to improve, of continuing our acquaintance. Though his junior by many years, I was honored by being to a certain extent admitted to the confidence of his friendship. The better I came to know the man, the more highly I esteemed him.

Shortly after Judge Richardson's death one of the executors of his will placed in my hands a letter addressed to myself. The Judge had written it without date. In modest terms he had expressed a wish that I might prepare a sketch of his life, to be printed and copies distributed to friends, and to various public libraries. This office I have cheerfully accepted, solicitous only that his true proportions may be made to appear, and the leading features of his important public service be adequately set forth.

Upon the whole record of his achievements I am of the deliberate conviction that Richardson was an abler and a more valuable public official than has been commonly supposed. The reader who shall peruse the narrative—particularly if he weigh the testimony of the bar and of the court given in the proceedings as printed in the Appendix—is already in a fair way, I believe, to reach a like conclusion.

Judge Richardson loved the truth, and despised anything that savored of pretense. I have tried to tell a plain, straightforward story of his remarkably useful life, knowing that he himself would have wished the facts,—precisely as they occurred,—presented with simplicity and candor.

FRANK WARREN HACKETT.

CRAIGFEN,

NEW CASTLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE,

20 September, 1898.