

**BIOGRAPHY OF MARTIN
VAN BUREN,
VICE PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED STATES.**

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Biography of Martin Van Buren, vice president of the United States. by William Emmons & Thos. H. Benton

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WILLIAM EMMONS & THOS. H. BENTON

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THE UNITED STATES.**

BIOGRAPHY
OF
MARTIN VAN BUREN,
VICE PRESIDENT
OF THE
UNITED STATES.

WITH AN

APPENDIX,

CONTAINING SELECTIONS FROM HIS WRITINGS, INCLUDING
HIS SPEECHES IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
ON THE CLAIMS OF THE SOLDIERS OF THE REVOLU-
TION, AND IN FAVOR OF ABOLISHING IM-
PRISONMENT FOR DEBT—WITH OTHER
VALUABLE DOCUMENTS, AMONG
WHICH WILL BE FOUND THE
LATE LETTER OF
COLONEL THOS. H. BENTON,
TO THE
CONVENTION OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

COMPILED AND EDITED

BY WILLIAM EMMONS.

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PREFACE.

In presenting to the American citizens a Biography of one of our distinguished DEMOCRATIC Statesmen, I feel that I need not apologize,—as I do it with feelings of patriotic ardour, and for the purpose of vindicating a character on whom has been lavished much personal and public abuse for a long series of years, on account of his early opposition to a party once recognized as the “ESSEX JUNTO,” but more recently known as the War Party in peace! and the Peace Party in war! occasionally mantling themselves beneath the imposing shelter of Washington and benevolence! And for this devotion to the cause of the people, he was PROSCRIBED! by the very Senate where you, my countrymen, have now placed him to preside, as a merited rebuke to such as proclaimed they were NO MAN’S MEN! As a further proof that the American PEOPLE are capable of SELF government, a portion of my fellow-citizens have informed such Senators that they are no longer their men!!

He has long been denounced as a MAGICIAN! his opponents, however, have been taught *satisfactorily*, I trust, that the magic he deals in has been approved by YOU, the PEOPLE! hence, I cannot, as an independent freeman, but rejoice at the cheering

prospects before him, confident as I am, that the same power which has sustained and propelled him onward, will again cluster around, and through him, carry out the principles begun by a JEFFERSON, and thus far perfected by the VENERABLE JACKSON, whose fame will endure "*while the earth bears a plant, or the sea rolls its waves.*" No doubt he will again be opposed by a phalanx, sustained as they have been, from the vaults of a gigantic BRITISH institution, in the disguise of a UNITED STATES BANK, which, VAMPIRE-LIKE, was fast preying on the VITALS of the REPUBLIC! Thanks to an overruling PROVIDENCE! A JACKSON, and a BENTON, dared encounter, and stay the further progress of that many headed MONSTER! seconded, on all occasions, by the firm friend to DEMOCRACY, MARTIN VAN BUREN, and nobly sustained by the American people.

For one, I do not doubt the *native* as well as *adopted* FREEMEN of my country, will, at the approaching PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, prove to the surrounding nations of the earth, that American citizens are superior to any and all combinations that have been or may be entered into for the overthrow of DEMOCRACY. If such an overthrow be accomplished, you then indeed would have a *constructive*, instead of a practical DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT.

Forget not, the GOVERNMENT is your *own*, and your children demand at your hands its transmission

unimpaired to them as your *last* best legacy. Remember the Reign of Kings is hastening to decay.

The Government then of *right*, belongs to the SOVEREIGN PEOPLE, before whom all officers must bow—at whose shrine I would ever be a worshipper.

Behold then, Fellow-citizens, the tree of Liberty!—perched thereon is the American Eagle with his broad and spreading wings, holding in his beak a SCROLL, on which is inscribed VAN BUREN, DEMOCRACY, UNION AND LIBERTY.

With these remarks I submit to my countrymen the following compilation. The biographical sketch was written by a gentleman intimately acquainted with the public and private history of Mr. Van Buren, for the CABINET, a literary publication which appeared in 1830. It was afterwards enlarged by its author in the summer of 1832. As Mr. Van Buren was then in nomination for the office of Vice President, special reference was made to that circumstance, and a strong conviction was expressed that he would be elected to that high office. I have preferred to retain this part of the memoir, although the particular language is no longer precisely applicable to the present state of things, because I have no right to alter the language of another, and more especially, because by the energy and virtue of the people, that part of it which looked to the future, has already become history.—The selection I have made from the speeches and writings of Mr. Van Buren, will

not only illustrate and verify many of the statements in the biography; but will exhibit the sound, democratic and statesman-like principles, by which his public conduct has been governed, and which have hitherto commanded the public approbation. The speech of Mr. FORSYTH, on the nomination of Mr. Van Buren as minister to Great Britain, in secret session of the Senate in 1832, the correspondence with the PRESIDENT on the same point, and the late letter of COL. BENTON, being all connected with the subject of this volume, and highly valuable in themselves, will, I hope, be interesting to my readers. And I trust that the cheering anticipations and patriotic wishes, which have led me to prepare this compilation, will be confirmed by the sovereign People of these UNITED STATES in the election of 1836.

To the American public,

WM. EMMONS.

Washington, Feb. 22, 1835.

