# LIVES OF AMERICAN MERCHANTS, EMINENT FOR INTEGRITY, ENTERPRISE AND PUBLIC SPIRIT

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Lives of American merchants, eminent for integrity, enterprise and public spirit by Various

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## **VARIOUS**

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# LIVES

OF

# AMERICAN MERCHANTS,

#### EMINENT

FOR

INTEGRITY, ENTERPRISE AND PUBLIC SPIRIT.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "THE YOUNG MUCHANT," "THE YOUNG MECHANIC" AN

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### PREFACE.

THE biography of eminent men stimulates the exertions of those who are themselves seeking honor in the path of usefulness. Their example is a treasure which should be preserved for the benefit of succeeding reperations. When those who have added to honorable exertion in their own proper calling or profession patriotic deeds and sacrifices for the public good, have departed from this earthly scene of action, the record of their lives should be transmitted to those who follow them in the same profession. The merchants of this country, though often thoughtlessly charged with a disposition to regard nothing but their own interests, or at most the general interests of commerce, have always shown themselves, in great public emergencies, among the most devoted of our illustrious band of patriots. They have repeatedly stood forward in the darkest hours of our country's peril, to save her by sacrifices and exertions. They not only furnished the "sinews of war" from their coffers, but the bravest of warriors from their number.

The purpose of the present volume is to make known

to the present generation the illustrious characters of some of the more eminent American merchants who have signalized themselves by worth and patriotism in past times. There are many merchants of the same noble character now on the stage of life, ready to make sacrifices of property and to peril life for the honor and welfare of their beloved country. The compiler of this volume, while he would preserve in a collective form the biographics of the illustrious dead, believes that he may render good service to the country by exciting a noble emulation in the bosoms of the young men who are destined hereafter to sustain among the various classes. of their fellow citizens the well earned character and spotless honor of the American merchant. At the same time he would commend to the notice of these who are engaged in other pursuits, the example of those who have shown that the successful pursuit of commerce is not incompatible with great usefulness and high distinction in public life. He trusts that in future scenes of peril, which may come upon our country, there will be found new Hancocks and Langdons, Laurenses and Morrises in every profession and rank of life, whose deeds will cause their names to be enrolled in the bright records of American patriotism.

## LIVES

OF

## AMERICAN MERCHANTS.

## SAMUEL ADAMS.

Samuel Adams, whose name is associated with all the great events of the American revolution, was born in Boston in the state of Massachusetts, September 32, 1722. His ancestors were among the first settlers of New England. His parents were very respectable. His father was for many years a representative for the town of Boston in the Massachusetts house of assembly, in which he was annually elected till his death. He was a justice of the peace for many years, and a selectman of the town; possessed considerable wealth, and was respected and esteemed.

Samuel Adams acquired his preparatory knowledge at the celebrated Latin grammar school of Mr. Lovell, where he was remarkably attentive to his studies. His conduct was similar while he was at college, and during the