

**SPEECHES AND ADDRESSES  
OF THE LATE HON. DAVID  
S. CODDINGTON, WITH A  
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

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Speeches and addresses of the late Hon. David S. Coddington, with a biographical sketch by David Smith Coddington

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*David J. Codrington*

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## BIOGRAPHY OF DAVID S. CODDINGTON.

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DAVID SMITH CODDINGTON, the author of the speeches contained in this volume, was born in the city of New York on September 23d, 1823. He was the third son of the late Jonathan I. Coddington, a prominent merchant of New York, and a lineal descendant of one of the oldest families of the country.

The family traces its lineage clearly back to the days of the American Colonies. William Coddington, the founder of the family on this continent, came to America in 1630, having been appointed by King Charles I. of England a magistrate for the colony of Massachusetts, a position which he filled for several years. On the accession of Gov. Winthrop to the Governorship of the colony, Mr. Coddington, disagreeing with him in his policy, to avoid the persecution with which Winthrop pursued his political enemies, emigrated with others to what was then called the island of Aquetneck, but by Judge Coddington named Rhode Island. Here he founded

a colony for which he framed a government and a code of laws, and was elected Judge, but in 1640, the form of government was changed, and the founder and Judge of the colony was elected its first Governor. He held the office for many years,—we believe, until 1675. He has come down to us in history as a prudent, active Quaker, zealous for his principles and earnest in his advocacy of the liberty of conscience.

JONATHAN I. CODDINGTON, the father of the subject of this sketch, was also a leader among his people; and at one time held an influential position in this city as a Democratic politician. His career as such was at a time in the history of the Democratic party of great interest, and he may be said to have been a representative man of the Jacksonian Democracy of his day, as his son was of the war Democracy as it now exists. Long before General Jackson had begun his crusade against the United States Bank, the Senior Coddington had given expression to views upon the question of Paper-Currency and its tendency to dangerous expansion totally at variance with those of a great majority of his fellow-merchants and politicians, and in consonance with those of the President; so that when the