

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE HON.  
LAZARUS W. POWELL, (OF HENDERSON,  
KY.), GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF  
KENTUCKY FROM 1851-1855, SENATOR  
IN CONGRESS FROM 1859-1865**

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Biographical sketch of the Hon. Lazarus W. Powell, (of Henderson, Ky.), governor of the state of Kentucky from 1851-1855, senator in Congress from 1859-1865 by Various

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# **VARIOUS**

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LAZARUS W. POWELL, (OF HENDERSON,  
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KENTUCKY FROM 1851-1855, SENATOR  
IN CONGRESS FROM 1859-1865**





James W. McDowell

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

OF THE

HON. LAZARUS W. POWELL,

(OF HENDERSON, KY.),

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KENTUCKY

FROM 1851 TO 1855,

AND A

SENATOR IN CONGRESS

FROM 1839 TO 1863.

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1868.



P87 K41

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF KENTUCKY,  
MARCH 5, 1868.

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MR. MCKENZIE moved the following resolution, viz :

*Resolved,* That a Committee of three be appointed by the Chair to prepare a Biographical Sketch of the Hon. L. W. POWELL, and that the Public Printer be directed to print five thousand copies of said Biography for the use of this House, together with the speeches delivered on the occasion of the announcement of his death, in pamphlet form, accompanied with a lithographic portrait of the deceased.

Which was adopted, and the following named gentlemen were appointed to perform the duty indicated by the resolution, viz : Messrs. J. A. MCKENZIE, of Christian county ; S. I. M. MAJOR, of Franklin county ; and R. M. SPALDING, of Marion county.

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IN THE SENATE OF KENTUCKY,  
MARCH 6, 1868.

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MR. ALEXANDER moved the following resolution, viz :

*Resolved,* That a Committee of two of the Senate be appointed by the Chair, to act in conjunction with a similar Committee of the House, to prepare Biographical Sketches of the Hon. L. W. POWELL and the Hon. JOHN L. HELM, and that the Public Printer be directed to print three thousand eight hundred copies of each Biography for the use of the Senate, together with the speeches delivered on the passage of the resolutions in regard to their death in the Senate and the House, the same to be published in pamphlet form, accompanied with lithographic portraits of the deceased, and that they be mailed to the members of both Houses, postage paid.

Which was twice read and adopted. Senators JOSEPH M. ALEXANDER, of the county of Fleming, and BEN. J. WEBB, of the City of Louisville, were appointed, in pursuance of the resolution, to perform the duty assigned thereunder.

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## INTRODUCTION.

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It is to be feared that the effort we have made to depict the character and public services of the Hon. LAZARUS W. POWELL will be regarded, by many of our readers, more as a eulogy than a biography. Every written memoir of a truly good man must necessarily partake of this character. Had there been anything in his private life or in his public career worthy of general condemnation, or even of severe censure, we cannot suppose that the duty we have endeavored to perform would ever have been imposed upon us by the General Assembly. The maxim, *de mortuis nil nisi bonum*, is always applicable where there are living representatives of one's blood and name to be affected by the condemnation of the dead. The fact, therefore, that the representatives of his own people, so soon after his death, have directed his biography to be written, is evidence of the purity of his record—of the high estimation in which he was held by their entire constituencies.

It is a singular circumstance, in connection with our search after details concerning the private life of Governor POWELL, that our inquiries, with rare exceptions, have met with only general answers. "He was a most genial gentleman," is the usual reply that we have received from men of all parties and all creeds, at home and abroad. One writes: "He was always true to his principles and to his friends, and he was ever ready to forgive those who had done him injury." Another writes: "He was the soul of honor, as he was of candor; conscientiousness and urbanity had in him their

consistent representatives at all times and under all circumstances; he was sympathetic in the presence of human misery and bereavement, and to the poor he was always a liberal benefactor."

One who knew him well writes:

"There was a geniality about POWELL in social life that was not only the delight of his friends, but which had often the effect to make his bitterest political foes forget for the time that he was not of themselves. In mixed companies, it was a habit with him to introduce topics for conversation that were unlikely to provoke contention. When he found it impossible to prevent this, he was always uneasy until he or others had turned the discourse into other channels. His influence in the United States Senate was greatly in excess of his importance as a party politician. He was known to be a man of sound discretion and of incorruptible integrity, and his advocacy of measures in which no political policy was involved seldom failed to bring to his aid a certain number of votes from the opposition benches."

The Hon. THOS. C. MCCREERY, his life-long friend, who now fills the position he so greatly distinguished in the Senate of the United States, thus writes to one of the Committee:

"I should find it difficult to write a lengthy biography of Governor POWELL, from the fact that those traits of character which endeared him to all may be stated in a few sentences. Everywhere, at all times, and under all circumstances, *he was the same*. In social and private life, he was a kind, genial, hospitable gentleman. When you approached his door, no cloud shaded his brow; but the gushing warmth of his welcome made you feel that you were entering the portals of a friend. In public life, he never failed to come up to the full measure of his duty. He was possessed of a high order of talents, which he industriously employed in supporting measures, the jus-