

**JOSHUA R.
GIDDINGS:
A SKETCH; PP. 1-211**

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Joshua R. Giddings: A Sketch; pp. 1-211 by Walter Buell

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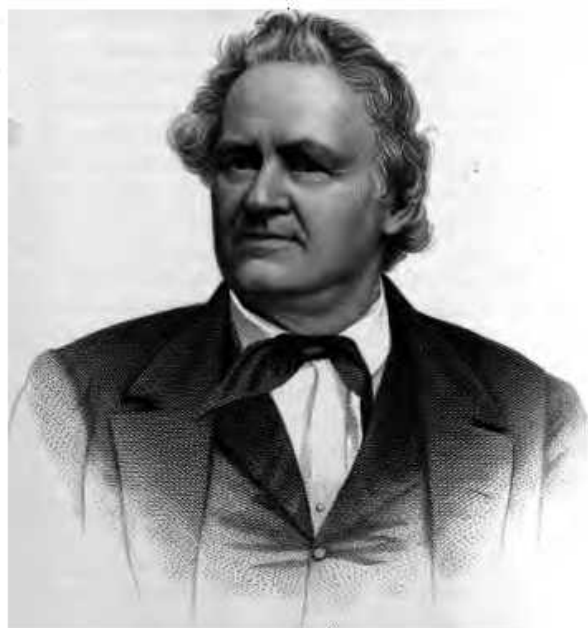
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WALTER BUELL

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Joshua R. Giddings

Eng. Alpha B. Hall & Sons 19 Park St. N.Y.

JOSHUA R. GIDDINGS.

A SKETCH.

BY

WALTER BUELL.

"I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course; I have kept
the faith."

CLEVELAND:
WILLIAM W. WILLIAMS.
1882.

ENTERED, according to act of Congress, in the year 1882,
By WILLIAM W. WILLIAMS,
in the office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington.

GIDDINGS, far tougher names than thine have grown
Smoother than honey on the lips of men;
And thou shalt aye be honorably known,
As one who bravely used the tongue and pen
As best befits a freeman;—even for those
To whom our laws' unblushing front denies
A right to plead against the life-long woes
Which are the negroes' glimpse of freedom's skies.
Fear nothing and hope all things, as the right
Alone may do securely; every hour
The thrones of ignorance and ancient Night
Lose somewhat of their long usurped power;
And freedom's lightest word can make them shiver
With a base dread that clings to them forever.

—*William Cullen Bryant.*

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JOSHUA R. GIDDINGS.

I.

Read any page of the history of the final struggle in and out of Congress which culminated in the war of the Rebellion, and resulted in the abolition of slavery in the United States, and you will encounter the name of Joshua R. Giddings. The history of that contest is given elsewhere in this volume and must convey, to one who reads it, a sufficient understanding of the relation of parties and the bearings of the all important question in 1838, when Mr. Giddings entered the House of Representatives. The present generation is intolerant of any theory of affairs which supposes a providential agency; like the French of the great revolution, it has taken down the Holy Image from the temple, and in the empty niche placed

the brazen figure of Chance. Were it not so, had we half the practical and literal faith of a hundred years ago, it would be difficult to doubt that Giddings was chosen before his birth for the great work to which he devoted the best years of his life; that his clearness of brain and of moral vision was given him that he might see the right, and seeing it, unfalteringly uphold it in the face of the bitter opposition, the deadly personal hatred, the venomous slanders and malice of his opponents. When he was born, the old struggle against the slave trade was not yet passed. Throughout his youth the engrossing demands of war and the inactivity which followed a victory gained by the friends of the negro, in the interdiction of the slave trade, kept the subject in abeyance. In the prime of his early manhood, while he was receiving the discipline of legal practice and serving an apprenticeship in the councils of his own State, there entered the House of Representatives a venerable and noble man, who took up the burthen which the old champions of liberty had left by the wayside, and, almost single-handed, carried the war into the country of a united and powerful enemy. That man was John Quincy Adams—scholar, diplomat, and, in the best sense of the word, statesman. He stood not entirely unsupported in his advocacy, but so far in advance of the few of his inclining as to be