

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THE
STATE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS
OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
STATE OF NEW YORK, IN 1859**

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Biographical sketches of the state officers and members of the Legislature of the state of New York, in 1859 by W M. D. Murphy

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W M. D. MURPHY

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Engraving of Henry T. Pease, Albany, N.Y.

C. A. Morgan

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BY
WM. D. MURPHY,
AUTHOR OF "BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES, &c., 1858."

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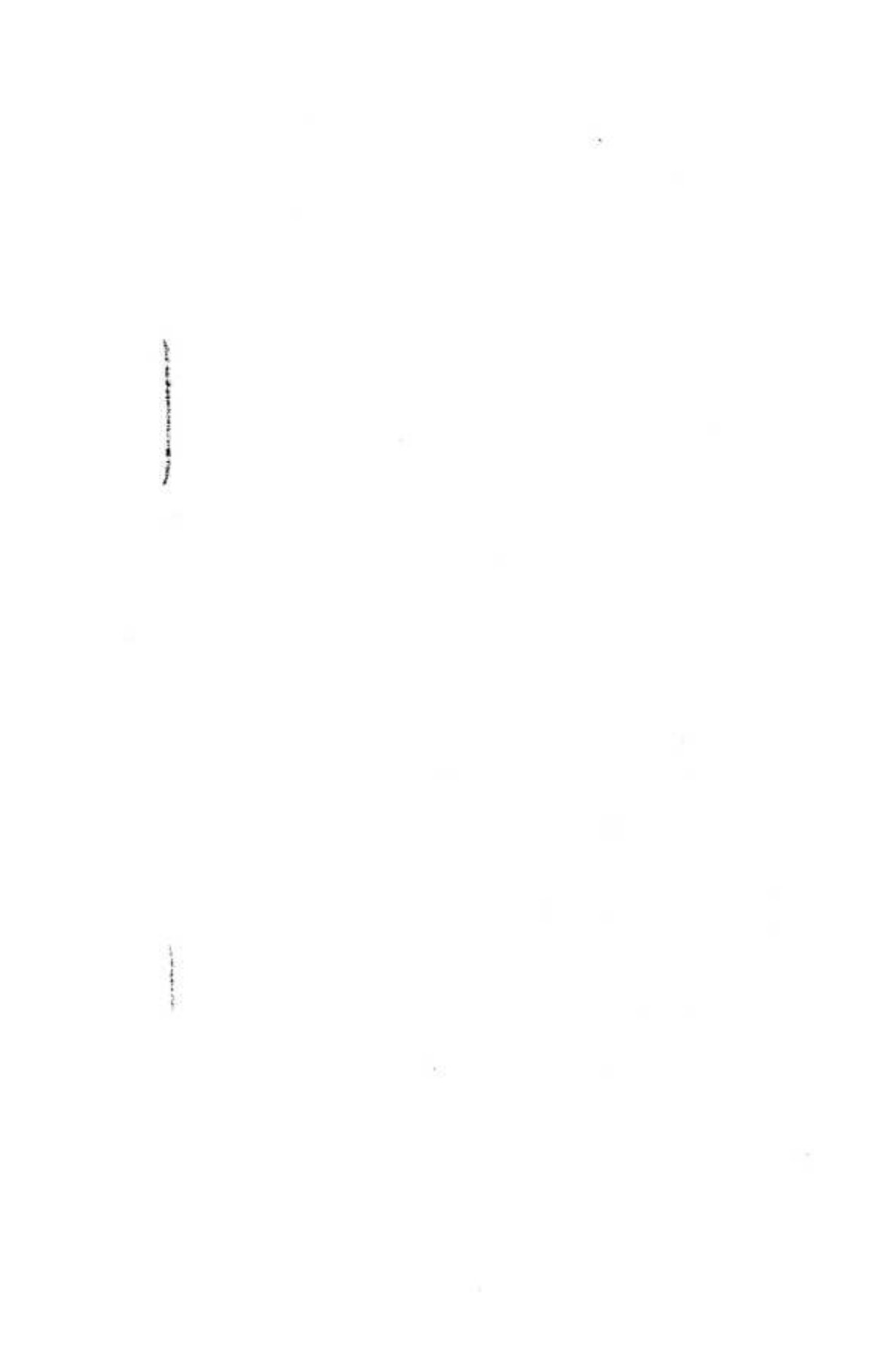
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INTRODUCTION.

"Tis in books the chief
Of all perfections, to be plain and brief."

One year ago, amid the cares and perplexities of an early advent upon a professional career, the Author found time to issue a work similar to this, and the favor with which it was received by the public has now encouraged him to repeat the enterprise. His chief object then, as it is now, was to furnish impartial, truthful, and condensed biographical sketches of the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, State Officers, and Members of both branches of the Legislature, and in this, at least, he has again been eminently successful. The work is perfectly reliable, even as to the most unimportant dates, and hence becomes as much a book of reference as any thing else.

The necessity of an index to the work, it will be observed, has been entirely obviated by the alphabetical order in which the Senators and Members of Assembly have been respectively arranged.



BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

EDWIN D. MORGAN,

GOVERNOR.

Mr. Morgan is one of those men not uncommon in this country, who pursue their course quietly through life, doing well and earnestly whatever they undertake. His career has been that of a successful merchant, and though he has for many years taken a deep interest, and an active part, in State and National politics, he has never held any important public office, except that of State Senator, till his promotion to the distinguished position he now occupies.

Gov. Morgan was born in the town of Washington, Berkshire County, Mass., on the 8th of February, 1811. His father, Jasper Morgan, resided in that town till 1822, when he removed with his family to Windsor, Connecticut, where he is still living at a ripe old age. Until he had reached his seventeenth year, Edwin passed his life very much as the sons of New England farmers generally do—in tilling the soil and going to school. But with his common school education, a capital of thirty-seven and half cents, and a firm determination to succeed in life, by his industry and integrity, he went forth to seek his fortune, in 1828, in Hartford, Conn. The young men of the present day will doubtless smile, at hearing that he bound himself to a Hart-

ford trader, at a salary of \$60 for the first year, \$75 for the second year, and \$100 for the third year. But during his clerkship, and when only nineteen years of age, an incident occurred which exhibits, in a marked degree, his real character. A trip to the great city was not then made with such facility as at this time, but as he had served for two or three years in the store, and acquired the confidence of his employer, he was permitted to go to New York, and, to combine business with pleasure, was intrusted to make sundry purchases of tea, sugar, etc., and also corn, which was then becoming an article of import, instead of export. The visit was made, and Edwin returned in due time, coming home by the old stage route. After being greeted and welcomed, his employer inquired as to the corn. The price was very satisfactory, but his employer doubted if the article would be of good quality at so low a rate. Edwin immediately drew a handful, first from one pocket and then from another, as samples, and the old gentleman expressed his approbation. It had been usual for the dealers to purchase two or three hundred bushels at a time, and he then inquired of Edwin as to the quantity, but was nonplused by the answer, that he had bought two cargoes, and that the vessels were probably in the river. "Why, Edwin," said the astonished old gentleman, "what are we to do with two cargoes of corn? Where can we put it? Where can we dispose of it?" "Oh!" replied Edwin, "I have disposed of all that you don't want, at an advance; I have shown the samples to Messrs. A. B., who wish three hundred bushels C. & Co., three hundred bushels, etc., etc. I could have disposed of three cargoes if I had had them. I stopped in the stores as I came from the stage office and made sales."