

**POLITICAL LANDMARKS; OR,  
HISTORY OF PARTIES, FROM THE  
ORGANIZATION OF THE  
GENERAL GOVERNMENT TO THE  
PRESENT TIME**

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Political Landmarks; Or, History of Parties, from the Organization of the General Government to the Present Time by Daniel Munger

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POLITICAL  
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FROM THE ORGANIZATION OF THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT TO  
THE PRESENT TIME,

COMPILED FROM THE MOST RELIABLE AUTHORS, BY

DANIEL MUNGER.

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## P R E F A C E.

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IN presenting to the public this volume, entitled the "Political Landmarks: or History of Parties," we feel that we have undertaken a severe task; yet we hope that the facts we have endeavored to collect, from the most intelligent and reliable authors, and arrange together, will be satisfactory to the reader as being a faithful delineation of the political history of the country. It is of much importance that these "landmarks" should be kept constantly in view by those coming upon the political stage, as they must soon be called upon to guide the ship of state. Our great men are now arriving at an age which must ere long deprive us of their invaluable services. Among the number, we must mention Messrs. Cass, Clay, Buchanan, Benton, Webster, Woodbury, Dallas, &c. These men have occupied conspicuous places in the political history of our government, but the measure of time allotted to man for his sojourn upon this earth, has with them been nearly filled. The senate of the United States now embraces the most brilliant galaxy of talent and statesmanship that was ever assembled in a legislative body upon the face of the globe, unless perhaps a period antecedent, in the same body, would have found

added to the glorious list of talented men, the late Hon. John C. Calhoun and Silas Wright, but the sand has nearly run, and new men must fill the places of the living. It is important, therefore, that our young men should make the effort to qualify themselves for public stations. None should think for a moment that even the highest distinctions are beyond their reach. Among the men here mentioned there is hardly one who does not owe his enviable position in the political world, to his own perseverance. We must say that we have fears as to the industry and application of those coming upon the stage as the successors of the great men of the nation alluded to. When they were young, times and circumstances were vastly different from what they are at the present time. Their fortunes and fame depended upon their own industry and perseverance, while at the present day a competency to carry one through life is more easily obtained, and frequently falls from estates, without the least effort on the part of the recipient. The great danger is, that such a state of things will have a tendency to paralyze the efforts and energies of those who must fill up the scene of life upon the political stage.

Gen. Cass came upon the political stage poor, and with an ordinary education, in the practice of the law. Being possessed of an ambitious spirit, and an unusual degree of industry, he made himself what he is, probably one of the most accomplished scholars in the Union. Had he been brought up in luxury in younger days, it is quite doubtful whether he would have been prompted to attempt the Herculean task. He will live to enjoy his luxury in his older age, as the competency of this world's goods allotted to him probably far outstrips that of the others named.



Col. Benton is said to be the most studious man of the age. He is remarkable for his statistical information. Whatever subject arises in the senate he can put his hands upon the necessary papers or information relative to the same, or something analogous, either in his table drawer or in the library. His whole time, aside from his senatorial duties, are devoted to researches in his library.

The same can be said to a great extent of Henry Clay, and of John C. Calhoun, and Silas Wright while living. Mr. Webster is said not to be so studious, but never forgets any thing he has read or heard during his life. His early education was of the most complete order.

It has been our effort, in this undertaking, to place before the public, the prominent facts connected with political history from the organization of the national government to the present time. The low price fixed upon the work will render it accessible to all; and should our efforts prove satisfactory to the public, our object will have been accomplished.



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