

**MEMOIRS OF A
SENATE PAGE
(1855-1859)**

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Memoirs of a Senate page (1855-1859) by Christian F. Eckloff & Percival G. Melbourne

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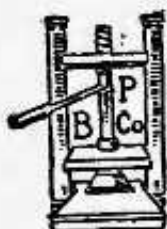
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BY
CHRISTIAN F. ECKLOFF

Edited by
PERCIVAL G. MELBOURNE
Author of "Child's History of the War with Spain"



Fully Illustrated

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Memoirs of a Senate Page

I.

INTRODUCTORY.

The Senate chamber during the period of which this volume treats was the theatre of perhaps the most memorable scenes in the history of the upper house of Congress; and the men who swayed the public mind of the North and of the South, by means of mighty words and undaunted acts, furnishing thereby the great prelude to a great war, were men of whom whatsoever is related should meet with wide popular interest. In those years the contest over slavery became more and more embittered, the Republican party began taking root in the political field, and a gulf grew wide between the opposite-minded throughout that grave and stolid house.

As I look down the vista of years, in fancy I see again what struck the plastic mind of youth: many men of giant intellect and singular gifts, grandly outlined on that famous floor; and as the spectacular scenes glide by, I entertain in no less degree the infatuation I felt when as a boy, I heard, day by day, the eloquence of English flowing in unstemmed torrents, and beheld the speakers in all the loftiness of poise and command. Secretly, and boylike enough, I had my favorites who arose armed to the teeth and broke