

**SKETCH OF THE LIFE AND
CHARACTER OF RUTHERFORD B.
HAYES. ALSO A BIOGRAPHICAL
SKETCH OF WILLIAM A.
WHEELER**

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Sketch of the life and character of Rutherford B. Hayes. Also a biographical sketch of William A. Wheeler by Wm. D. Howells

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WM. D. HOWELLS

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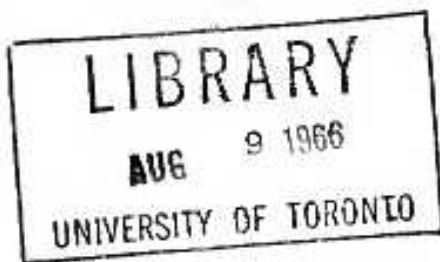
ALSO A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF
WILLIAM A. WHEELER.

WITH PORTRAITS OF BOTH CANDIDATES

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H. O. HOUGHTON AND COMPANY.

PREFACE.

THIS book is my own enterprise, and has been in nowise adopted or patronized by the man whose life and character I have tried to portray.

It differs chiefly from the biographies already before the public, in the large use made of original letters, diaries, note-books and scrap-books placed at my disposal without restriction and without instruction. In this use I have been guided solely by my own sense of fitness and my respect for the just limits of personality, on which I hope not to have trespassed, though I might have printed every word of his, and only the more commended Rutherford B. Hayes to the honor and affection of the people.

Written within four weeks after the material came to my hand, the book has, I know, very many faults of haste; but it was not in the power of any writer, however hurried or feeble, wholly to obscure the interest of that material; and whatever is the result of the political

contest, I cannot think that people will quickly forget the story of a life so true and high.

I wish distinctly to say that General Hayes is responsible for no comment or construction of mine upon any word or act of his; and whatever is ambitious, or artificial, or unwise in my book is doubly my misfortune, for it is altogether false to him.

W. D. HOWELLS.

CAMBRIDGE, *September 7, 1876.*

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