

**SKETCH OF THE LIFE,
CHARACTER, AND
PUBLIC SERVICES
OF OLIVER P. MORTON**

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Sketch of the life, character, and public services of Oliver P. Morton by Charles M. Walker

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CHARLES M. WALKER

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OF OLIVER P. MORTON**



O. P. Morton

SKETCH
OF THE
LIFE, CHARACTER, AND PUBLIC SERVICES
OF
OLIVER P. MORTON.

PREPARED FOR THE INDIANAPOLIS JOURNAL

BY

CHARLES M. WALKER.

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

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1878.

To
THE SURVIVING SOLDIERS OF INDIANA,
WHO BY THEIR HEROISM AND SACRIFICES
CONTRIBUTED SO LARGELY TO THE FAME OF THE STATE,
AS WELL AS TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE UNION,
AND WHO HONORED
OLIVER P. MORTON,
FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICES IN THE SAME CAUSE,
AND LOVED HIM FOR HIS DEVOTION TO THEIR INTERESTS,
This Sketch of his Life and Character
IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
CHAPTER I.	
ANCESTRY AND YOUTH	7
CHAPTER II.	
MORTON AS A LAWYER	14
CHAPTER III.	
ENTRANCE INTO POLITICS	22
CHAPTER IV.	
A MEMORABLE SPEECH	40
CHAPTER V.	
HIS NOBLE RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENT'S CALL	49
CHAPTER VI.	
HIS SERVICES TO NEIGHBORING STATES	66
CHAPTER VII.	
THE SOLDIER'S FRIEND	83
CHAPTER VIII.	
STATE DEFENSE AND INTERNAL STATE TROUBLES	92
CHAPTER IX.	
OTHER SERVICES TO THE NATION, THE STATE, AND THE SOLDIERS	110

	PAGE
CHAPTER X.	
RE-ELECTION AS GOVERNOR. — CLOSE OF THE WAR	120
CHAPTER XI.	
ELECTION TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE	128
CHAPTER XII.	
HIS SENATORIAL CAREER	134
CHAPTER XIII.	
HIS SENATORIAL CAREER, CONTINUED	142
CHAPTER XIV.	
OTHER PUBLIC AND POLITICAL SERVICES	151
CHAPTER XV.	
CLOSING SCENES. — FINAL SICKNESS AND DEATH	161
CHAPTER XVI.	
SUMMARY OF HIS CHARACTER	172

LIFE AND SERVICES
OF
OLIVER P. MORTON.

CHAPTER I.

ANCESTRY AND YOUTH.

ON the 4th of August, 1823, there was born, in the little village of Saulsbury, Wayne County, Indiana, a child who was destined to act a very conspicuous part in the history of his State and country, and whose name is now familiar as household words throughout the land. This was Oliver Perry Morton. At that time Saulsbury was the county-seat of Wayne County. The village has long since disappeared, and at this time scarcely a trace remains of it, only a slight irregularity in the surface of the earth indicating the former site of the old court-house. Indiana was admitted to the Union in 1816, so that the existence of the State antedates that of her greatest son only seven years, while a large portion of his life, briefly recorded in these pages, was closely identified with the most eventful passages in her history. No other man has ever been so revered or honored in Indiana, and of all those born

within her borders none has contributed so largely to the honor and renown of the State as he of whom we write. It is fitting that the record of such a life, so full of inspiration and encouragement for the young, of edification for the old, and of interest for all, should be placed within easy reach of every citizen of the State, so that not only may his memory be sacredly preserved, but others be stirred to emulate his virtues.

Oliver Perry Morton was of English descent on his father's side, and from that race he probably drew some of the most marked traits of his character. Steadiness of purpose, strong convictions and devotion to the right, are commonly supposed to be especially characteristic of the English people, and Oliver P. Morton had all these qualities in a marked degree. His grandfather emigrated from England about the beginning of the Revolutionary War, and settled in New Jersey. The family name was originally Throckmorton, and was so written by the grandfather. It is not known just when this was changed to Morton, nor why, though a sufficient reason would be found in the fact of the latter being much more convenient. But the first syllable of the name has always been preserved in the family as a middle name. Oliver P. Morton's father's middle name was Throck, as is also that of one of his surviving sons. William T. Morton, father of Oliver P., was a native of New Jersey and a man of sterling worth. It is not known that he possessed any brilliant qualities, but he was a man of sound sense, excellent judgment, and strict integrity. While yet a young man