

**THE LIFE OF ABNER COBURN:  
A REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC AND  
PRIVATE CAREER OF THE LATE  
EX-GOVERNOR OF MAINE**

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The Life of Abner Coburn: A Review of the Public and Private Career of the Late Ex-Governor of Maine by Charles E. Williams

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**CHARLES E. WILLIAMS**

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*Ex-Gov. Abner Coburn.*

Transportation  
Library

## DEDICATION.

TO THE PEOPLE OF MAINE, ON WHOM  
ABNER COBURN  
BESTOWED HIS BOUNTY MOST LIBERALLY,  
AND TO ALL OTHERS, WHO WOULD  
EMULATE INTEGRITY, GENIUS,  
AND PHILANTHROPY,  
THESE PAGES ARE RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED.



## PREFACE.

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Every civilized age has preserved a record of the public and private qualities of its great men.

From the primitive stage of the ancients, down to the present time, there have been those especially admired and remembered for some peculiar characteristic that ranked them above their fellows. Some personal quality entitled them to prominence and won for them the respect of mankind.

On a page of the history of every tongue is inscribed the deeds of some departed genius, whose acts have lent a charm to the annals of his time, and bestowed upon the human family imperishable honors. There are, however, many varieties of genius, any of whom may have been endowed by nature with attractions peculiar to himself. It is essential that the memory of all such should be preserved.



The achievements of the soldier are never to be forgotten; these are cherished as an example for posterity. The name of the eminent jurist is preserved as an especial honor to the realm in which he lived. The historian, poet, scientist, and inventor, are to be ever kept in familiar view as an evidence of man's progression.

A genius is not necessarily confined to the classes we have cited. He may be found among those who perform lesser things. Acts of kindness, noble deeds of charity, and a strict observance of the Golden Rule; the one who unselfishly practices any of these may be properly termed a genius.

Man has been clothed by nature with a faculty which entitles him to supremacy. His ability to decide between right and wrong has given him a wonderful power. That this preeminent advantage over the lesser creation is often abused we are convinced by indisputable evidences, but, among nature's noblemen, no such abuse exists.

It is for us to present the name of one who may be justly styled a genius; to preserve to posterity a lasting monument of the life of him who has left to the future a most noble record. By his own exertions he arose from the humbler walks of life, to a position of wealth and prominence, and

died in the fullness of his years, without a pang of regret for either commission or neglect, to disturb his peaceful rest.

Called from the walks of private life, at a time when the nation trembled on the verge of dissolution, to preside over the destinies of his native commonwealth, he bore his honors with becoming modesty and unflinchingly performed the important duties of his office.

The same purpose of character he had displayed in private life clung to him during his executive career, while the simplicity of his manner and the honesty of his unassuming methods, in dealing with public affairs, won for him the confidence and esteem of all with whom he became associated.

Not in the Executive chamber alone was he famous, however; there a certain restriction was thrown around him from which he could not escape. In the humbler walks of private life were to be found the greater deeds of the man whose memory shall be kindly cherished by the people of his time.

In perpetuating his name it is not to be presumed that we depend on our personal knowledge for the essential elements which are contained in the biography of one who was in the prime of life at date of our birth. We have, however, derived

our information from trustworthy sources ; from those who knew him from his early boyhood, and from another source more reliable even than the treacherous memory of man,—the public records.

It shall be our purpose to portray a simple, yet truthful history of the public and private life of the late Abner Coburn, beginning with his birth and following his footsteps to the hour of his death.

It has been remarked that no eulogy can be pronounced which can do justice to the memory of a charitable mind. Deeds, not words, Acts, not measured sentences, are weighed in the scales of justice. "By their fruits ye shall know them." Hence we prefer that the journal of his earthly sojourn shall alone speak of his manly nature and philanthropic instincts.

THE AUTHOR.