

**BIOGRAPHY OF THE HON.
CALEB STRONG, SEVERAL
YEARS GOVERNOR OF THE
STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS**

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Biography of the Hon. Caleb Strong, Several Years Governor of the State of Massachusetts by
Alden Bradford

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ALDEN BRADFORD

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STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS**

A very good likeness. F. J.

yes it is capital - April 2 1850 F. J.

(I am a member of the
the National Republican Party (1957)
(Oct)



HIS EXCELLENCY CALEB STRONG LL.D
elected in April 1814
GOVERNOR of MASSACHUSETTS
for the **TENTH** time
by the
FREE SUFFRAGES of the FELLOW CITIZENS.

Pro. Jackson's

BIOGRAPHY *Boston*

OF THE

July 8 1841
5

Hon. CALEB STRONG,

SEVERAL YEARS

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF

MASSACHUSETTS.

BY ALDEN BRADFORD.

BOSTON:

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BIOGRAPHY.

THE respect paid to the memory of eminent men, is alike honorable to the character of the deceased, and of the living. The sentiment which leads us to appreciate the virtues, and to eulogize the worth of the departed, is proof of a disinterested affection, and a love of moral excellence, natural to man. In our admiration of a living character, possessed of extensive influence in society, though his talents and his actions entitle him to distinguished regard, there is much of selfishness, perhaps, mingling with our expressions of applause. But when we gather round the tomb of the departed patriot, who has left no family honors or titles, with which to repay the obsequiousness of flatterers, we render a voluntary tribute to virtue, and show that human nature is capable of the most pure and disinterested sentiments. And it is a fact, which reflects honor on our common nature, that in all stages of society, this feeling has prevailed in the human breast. The refinement, introduced by learning, and the elevation of moral feelings in christian countries, may have tempered the expressions of sorrow for the death of great and good

men; but the sentiment is essentially the same in all. It is nature which prompts the homage offered to departed excellence. The manner of showing it, is indeed variable. Among a rude and uncivilized people, the ceremonies on such occasions will be ostentatious, and designed chiefly to affect the senses. In a nation fond of heroic deeds, they will be imposing and costly. But in refined and moral society, men will be satisfied with a less splendid, though not less sincere tribute, in contemplating the virtues and services of the deceased, and in exciting to an imitation of their estimable and useful qualities.

This is the notice which a truly good man, if he have any wish on the subject, must desire should be taken of him, when he shall retire from the world. This is the notice most profitable for the living, as it furnishes motives to public virtue, and stimulates to deeds of just renown.

But in selecting the character most deserving of admiration and eulogy, perhaps there is not the same coincidence of sentiment. With many, and those too of generous and lofty feelings, the man of adventurous qualities, and of daring exploits, is supposed to merit the highest eulogium; his memory to be consecrated with the most enthusiastic plaudits, and his fame extended by durable monuments, or the united voice of millions: while others, who place an equal value on the useful,

but less brilliant actions of the intelligent and disinterested patriot, bestow the same, if not higher praise, on characters, who have rather blessed their fellow men by their virtues, than astonished them by heroic deeds. A people, like Americans, in whom an ardent love of liberty is a national sentiment, will not fail to bestow the meed of merited applause on the hero, who has hazarded his life in defence of his country's rights, and assisted in the establishment of her prosperity and freedom. Such heroism is identified with the nation's honor; and a grateful people will cherish the recollection of such noble deeds with the warmest admiration. The brave men, who have defended their country in the field, not less than the sages and patriots, who consulted its prosperity and peace in the cabinet, are entitled to commemoration, when the scenes of difficulty and danger are over, and the blessings of freedom are permanently secured. We contemplate the character of the former, perhaps, with more admiration, and more enthusiasm: but in considering the character of the latter, we shall perceive qualities as estimable, and equally deserving commendation. The one excites astonishment, like the meteor, which alarms, while it dazzles; the other is beheld with complacency, like a more regular luminary, which sheds a lustre equally benign and brilliant.

A WARREN, who left the legislative hall, and hastened to the field of battle; and there, with an

uncalculating love of country, exposed his valued life, and early fell a victim on the altar of freedom— And a youthful PERRY, who, after surpassing the bravest veterans in hazardous exploits, has been laid low in the tomb, in a foreign land, when engaged in the public service—These shall be remembered with grateful admiration by a free and virtuous people.

But we are now to contemplate the character of a Patriot and Sage, who bore a distinguished part in the councils of the state and nation, during a long period of the most interesting events which have occurred in the history of our country : one, who was associated, in consulting for our liberty and welfare, with an OTIS, a BOWDOIN, a HANCOCK, the ADAMSES, and others ; a glorious constellation of patriots, whose light, we trust, will guide, and cheer, and bless the nation for many ages to come. In reviewing his useful life, there will be found much for the legislator, the magistrate, and christian—much for the public officer, and the private citizen, to command and to imitate.

CALEB STRONG was born in 1744, at Northampton, in this State, of respectable parents ; and his literary and moral education was such as the pious founders of the State had learned from experience was necessary to render a man most useful in society, and beloved by his fellow men.

He was early taught the importance of obedience to parents and superiors, and his mind imbued with christian principles; and thus a firm foundation was laid for correct habits, and an amiable, gracious deportment in his maturer years. He was as remarkable in youth for filial piety, as afterwards for the mild virtues which adorn and sweeten domestic life.

However this theory of early discipline and subordination may be exploded by many in the present age, it is happily calculated to give to man the salutary control of his passions; and to induce him, while he is careful not to commit acts of personal injustice to others, to maintain the command ever himself, and to secure all the satisfactions of self respect. This healthy moral state has been justly esteemed a great blessing by philosophers, both ancient and modern: and is more desirable than even the rare gift of genius, if attended, as it often is, with irregular and ungoverned passions. And this chastised feeling, this discipline of the passions, this self command, is always the result of a religious education—of a well-informed mind and early habits of obedience and subordination.

Thus fortified by religious sentiments and moral habits, he was early sent from the paternal roof, and placed under the tuition of the celebrated Preceptor Moody, the instructor of some of the first