

**HORACE GREELEY:
FOUNDER AND EDITOR OF
THE NEW YORK TRIBUNE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649138517

Horace Greeley: founder and editor of the New York Tribune by William Alexander Linn

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

WILLIAM ALEXANDER LINN

**HORACE GREELEY:
FOUNDER AND EDITOR OF
THE NEW YORK TRIBUNE**



HORACE GREELEY IN 1872.

HUS. B
37945
Yl

Horace Greeley

Founder and Editor of The New York
Tribune

BY

WILLIAM ALEXANDER LINN

Author of "The Story of the
Mormons"



Illustrated



257871
10.8.31

NEW YORK AND LONDON
D. APPLETON AND COMPANY
1912

PREFACE

HORACE GREELEY is remembered by the men of his own day as a great editor and a somewhat eccentric genius. While we like to hear about a man's personal characteristics, in studying his biography the lessons of a life like Greeley's are to be found in his works. When a "gawky" country lad, with a limited education and a slight acquaintance with the printer's trade, comes to the principal city of the land with a few dollars in his pocket and a single suit of clothes, and fights a fight the result of which is the founding of the most influential newspaper of his day, and the acquirement of a reputation as its editor which secures for him a nomination for the presidency of the United States—in such a man's career there must be material for useful study. And the place to study Horace Greeley is in his newspapers. He made these newspapers; he gave them their character; and, in doing so, he left on them his mental photograph.

Horace Greeley

Such a study is most interesting. No other editor has ever given opportunity for it. Beginning his editorial labors when both the tariff and the slavery questions were quiescent, we find in the files of the *New Yorker*, the *Jeffersonian*, the *Log Cabin*, and the *New York Tribune*, in order, an expression of the growing national interest in these subjects, and a discussion of them which pictures, better than any mere recital of results can do, the building up of a public sentiment that had so far-reaching results. This is especially true of the slavery question; because Greeley was not an early Abolitionist—not an Abolitionist at all, in the technical sense. He was one of those who were content to leave the South alone with its slavery as that institution was defined in the Federal Constitution and restricted by the Missouri Compromise. But he was foremost in the ranks of those who called for the observance of that compromise, who refused to concede to the South new slave territory, and who assisted in arousing the national conscience to the pitch that made an armed attempt to save the Union in the sixties a possibility.

Why this valiant warrior stepped aside into the ranks of the timid and the compromisers when the issue was drawn, each reader

Preface

may decide for himself. Why he was not content with his position and influence as an editor, and sacrificed a good deal of consistency in an effort to reach the office of President, may also be left to the reader's opinion. His weaknesses throughout his editorial career are almost as marked as his strength, and a lack of foresight often played havoc with his judgment. An editor of large experience said, on the occasion of his death: "The editor of a daily paper is the object of unceasing adulation from a crowd of those who shrink from fighting the slow and doubtful battle of life in the open field, and crave the kindly shelter of editorial plaudits, 'puffs,' and 'mentions'; and he finds this adulation offered freely, and by all classes and conditions, without the least reference to his character or talents or antecedents. What wonder if it turns the heads of unworthy men, and begets in them some of the vices of the despots—their unscrupulousness, their cruelty, and their impudence; what wonder, too, if it should have thrown off his balance a man like Mr. Greeley, whose head was not strong, whose education was imperfect, and whose self-confidence had been fortified by a brave and successful struggle with adversity."

Of Greeley's honesty and purity of motive

Horace Greeley

there was never any question. In his days of poverty no suggestions of a Weed that he remain quiet about some matter in which he believed, but which was not on the popular side, had any influence with him. In the days of the slavery contest, when the business interests of his city were ready for almost any concessions to Southern customers, he defied the "priests of the god Cotton," as he called them, and rebuked them in most scathing terms. When the war was over, and the questions of adjustment and reconstruction were to be solved, he took a stand immediately and openly in favor of pardon and renewed brotherhood which cost him the favor of thousands of old associates, and lost him an election to the United States Senate. However much his judgment swayed, it never swayed "on that side fortune leans."

CONTENTS

CHAPTER I

	PAGE
Greeley's early years and first experiences as a compositor: New York city in 1831—Parentage and farm life— His schooling—Opinions of a college education—Ap- prenticeship in Vermont—Appearance and dress— Views of country journalism—Amusements—A non- user of tobacco and liquor—Arrival in New York city .	1

CHAPTER II

Discouragements in New York city: Looking for a job— His first employment—Setting up in business—Sources of income—How the New Yorker was started—Early journalism in the United States—Scope of the new paper —Greeley as a poet—Subjects of editorial discussion— Financial views—His straits for money	21
--	----

CHAPTER III

Thurlow Weed's discovery: What attracted him to Gree- ley—Their first meeting—The Jeffersonian and the Log Cabin—Their character and features—Greeley's indus- try—Poor business management—Last of the New Yorker	40
--	----

CHAPTER IV

Founding of the Tribune: Greeley's preparation—Views on good journalism—Local competition—The first num-	
---	--