

**THE FEDERALIST PARTY
IN MASSACHUSETTS
TO THE YEAR 1800**

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The Federalist party in Massachusetts to the year 1800 by Anson Ely Morse

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ANSON ELY MORSE

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TO THE YEAR 1800**

The
Federalist Party in Massachusetts
to the Year 1800

BY

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PREFACE.

This Thesis was prepared to complete the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at Princeton University.

The subject was suggested by the work done in the American History Seminars of Professor F. J. Turner of the University of Wisconsin during the years 1903-4 and 1904-5. While studying the Federalist party in Massachusetts for the years 1816 to 1824, the writer was struck by the fact that the strength of that party lay in a great measure in the western half of the state. In as much as a previous study of Shays' Rebellion, for a Master of Arts' Thesis, had shown that section to be the radical democratic portion of the state,¹ the questions arose as to when this change had occurred and what was the powerful factor which brought about such an overturn. The answer, as it seems to the writer, is to be found in the following pages.

Among the many librarians from whom have been received courtesies and facilities for research are those of the Congressional Library, the Pennsylvania Historical Society, the Lenox Library, the Connecticut Historical Society, the New England Historic and Genealogical Society, the Boston Public Library, the State Library of Massachusetts, the libraries of Princeton University, the University of Wisconsin and Amherst College, and especially the American Antiquarian Society of Worcester, Massachusetts.

(1) The writer follows the usage of the time in employing the terms democrat and republican interchangeably in the following pages. Abraham Bishop, the leading democratic politician of Connecticut of the Jeffersonian period, in his Oration on the Extent and Power of Political Delusion delivered in New Haven, September, 1800, (Philadelphia, 1800) asserts on page 7 (foot note) that he has made use of both words as their significance is exactly the same. The attempt of the federalists to use the epithet, democrat, as a term of reproach for the members of the Republican party was not very successful.

It is a very great pleasure also to express deep appreciation of the critical aid given by Professor E. S. Corwin and Dr. Ernest C. Richardson of Princeton University and Professor Anson D. Morse of Amherst, Mass., but above all my thanks are due to my wife for her unwearied assistance.

ANSON ELY MORSE.

CHAPTER I.

THE SOCIAL BACKGROUND.

The social development of New England, like its history, was due largely to three principal causes; the homogeneity of the people for nearly two centuries, the geographical isolation of the country in which they settled, and most important of all, the intensity of religious enthusiasm and the identity of religious convictions.

In any investigation of the various phases of the history and development of New England we find that the predominating feature is religion. It permeated New England life in all its relations, civil as well as personal. The significance and consequence of this feeling cannot be overestimated. It explains in large part the cause for settlement, the early theocratical form of government, the rooted policy of opposition to England, the zeal for education, the growth in isolation, the leadership of the American Revolution, and the inherent antagonism to the South.

As the social structure of any people depends largely on its ethnical composition, so the fact that for nearly two centuries the population of Massachusetts remained almost purely English, is of great significance. This remarkable homogeneity was due, at first, to the circumstances by reason of which the Pilgrims and Puritans emigrated from England and the purpose for which they exiled themselves to a new country. With the overthrow of the Royalist and the triumph of the Puritan party, the motive for leaving England was gone. The only source of