ELEAZER WHEELOCK RIPLEY, OF THE WAR OF 1812. MAJOR GENERAL IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY--MEMBER OF CONGRESS - ETC.; PP.1-190

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NICHOLAS BAYLIES

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The War of 1812.

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Major General in the United States Army-Member of Congress-Etc.

-BY-HIS NEPHEW, NICHOLAS BAYLIES, Des Moinde, Iowa.

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PREFACE.

In writing the life of General Ripley and for a more just understanding of his character, the author has taken the liberty to go into the details of history, the delineation of contemporaries, the results of the measures which engaged his attention, and the efforts he made to shape public opinion in regard to them.

To such results we properly look in judging of the patriotism, the sagacity and courage of Public Men and in deciding what amount of praise or censure, they merit whether in military or civil life.

The people of the United States, prior to 1815, were divided into two political parties, known as federal and republican. General Ripley, in early life, joined the latter and as conducive to a better understanding of the aims and principles which controlled him, and the respective parties, we give in an appendix, a concise history of the exciting questions which, growing out of the action of the general government, agitated New England during that period.

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LIFE OF ELEAZER WHEELOCK RIPLEY.

CHAPTER I.

Life of Eleazer W. Ripley, 1782-1815.

Eleazer W. Ripley, conspicuous among the heroes of the war of 1812, with Great Britain, a prominent and influential member of the great political party to which Jefferson, Madison, Jackson, Edward Livingston, George Bancroft and Levi Woodbury belonged, and ever a devoted friend of the National Union, was born at Hanover in the state of New Hampshire, April 15th, seventeen hundred and eighty-two.

His father, Sylvanus Ripley, was a member of the first class which was graduated at Dartmouth College. Subsequently became professor of theology in that institution, and while occupying that position was accidentally killed February 5th, seventeen hundred and eighty-seven, by being thrown from a sleigh, on his way to a neighboring town to fill an appointment. He left a widow and three sons and three daughters, to lament his early and untimely decease.

From information furnished by Mitchell's History of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, it is probable that Professor Ripley was the grand-son of the William Ripley who served in Gallup's company, in the unsuccessful expedition against Quebec, in