

**THE LIFE AND WRITINGS OF
MAJOR JACK DOWNING OF
DOWNINGVILLE, AWAY DOWN
EAST IN THE STATE OF MAINE**

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The Life and Writings of Major Jack Downing of Downingville, Away down East in the State of Maine by Seba Smith

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SEBA SMITH

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MAJOR JACK DOWNING,

of Downingville.

THE
LIFE AND WRITINGS
OF
MAJOR JACK DOWNING,

of Dounsfigelle,

AWAY DOWN EAST IN THE STATE OF MAINE.

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.

Seba Smith

What makes all doctrines plain and clear?
About two hundred pounds a year,
And that which was proved true before,
Prove false again? Two hundred more.

HOUENAS.

SECOND EDITION.

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1834

TO

GINERAL ANDREW JACKSON,

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

This Book

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

BY HIS FAITHFUL FRIEND AND HUMBLE SERVANT,

MAJOR JACK DOWNING.

409085

PREFACE.

ANER I got my book all done, and had looked it over every day as the printer went along with it, till I got clear to the last page, so as to see it was done right, the printer comes to me, and says he, we want a Preface now. A preface! says I, what in nater is that? Why, says he, it is something to fill up the two first pages with. But, says I, aint the two first pages filled up yet? I thought we had jest got through the last page; I hope our cake aint all turning to dough again. O, it's all right, says he, we always print the first pages last; all we want now is the preface, to fill up them are two first pages. Well, says I, but this is a pretty curious piece of business, this duin work backwards. I've hearn tell that Freemasons when they build their chimneys, begin at the top and work down, and that's what's got the Anti Masons so mad about it, that they are going to tear 'em all up, root and branch; but I never knew afore that folks printed the first end of a book last. But now, says I, Mr printer, if I've got to make this ere preface that you tell about, what must I put into it? O, says he, you must tell 'em something about the book; how you come to make it, and what's in it, and what it's good

for, and the like of that. Well, says I, if that's all, I guess I can work it out in short metre. In the first place then, I made the book because I couldn't help it; if I hadn't made it, I dont believe but what I should have split. And in the next place, I made it so as to get my letters all together, out of the way of the rascally counterfeiters, so that folks might know the good eggs from the rotten ones. And about these counterfeiters, I see the New York Daily Advertiser says they are going to print a book of the counterfeit letters somewhere there or at Philadelphia. All I have to say about it is, they are welcome to print as many letters as they are a mind to, if they will only jest put their own names to 'em. But he that will print his letters and put my name to 'em, I think would steal a sheep.

And in the next place, as to what is in the book, I guess folks will find that out fast enough, without my telling them.

And in the last place, as to what it is good for, it will tell folks more about politics, and how to get offices, than ever they knew before in all their lives; and what is the best out, it will be pretty likely to get me in to be President.

MAJOR JACK DOWNING.

Boston, Nov. 14, 1833.

CONTENTS.

MY LIFE.

In which I tell considerable more about my Grandfather, than I do about myself; Page 13

MY LETTERS.

Together with a few from Cousin Nabby, and Uncle Joshua, and Cousin Ephraim, and so on; containing a pretty considerable account of my public life, from January 1830, to November 1833, 35

LETTER I.—In which Mr Downing tells about choosing Speaker, 35

LETTER II.—In which Mr Downing tells about poor Mr Roberts' having to stand up, 40

LETTER III.—In which Cousin Nabby advises Mr Downing to come home, 43

LETTER IV.—In which Uncle Joshua tells how he went to Boston, and took dinner with the General Court, 45

EXTRACTS from the Portland Courier, 52

LETTER V.—In which Mr Downing tells what a hobble the Legislature got into, in trying to make so many Governors, 55

LETTER VI.—In which Mr Downing describes a sad mishap that befel the House of Representatives, 58

LETTER VII.—In which affairs take a more favourable turn, 59

LETTER VIII.—In which Mrs Downing urges her son to come home, 60

LETTER IX.—In which Mr Downing tells about triggung the wheels of government, 61

LETTER X.—In which Mr Downing advises his Uncle Joshua to hold on to his bushel of corn, because the Legislature had begun 'to rip up their dains,' 65