THE LIFE OF WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, (OF OHIO,) THE PEOPLE'S CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY. WITH A HISTORY OF THE WARS WITH THE BRITISH AND INDIANS ON OUR NORTH-WESTERN FRONTIER

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ISAAC R. JACKSON

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BY ISAAC R. JACKSON.

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PREFACE.

The principal aim and object of the following biography, is to place before its readers a fair and impartial narrative of the life of one of our most eminent fellow-citizens, the history of whose public services, both civil and military, is, for many years, closely and inseparably interwoven with that of our country. The many responsible offices held by General Harrison, the numerous important treaties made by him with the Indians, and the prominent part he took in all the wars and negotiations on our North-western frontier, during one of the most exciting and eventful periods of our national existence, render his life one of general and absorbing interest. Indeed we look upon the political and moral history of such a man as belonging to his country, and as constituting one of those bright beacon-lights destined to shine as long as the annals of our nation endure. To the character of such a man, justice is rarely done during his life-time. The carpings of envy or jealousy, and the misrepresentations of political opponents taint the public mind to a certain degree,

and cast a shadow over the most brilliant actions and the purest and most virtuous motives. But long after the stormy waves that now agitate the great ocean of political strife shall have subsided, when all personal opposition shall have shared the fate of its originators and have sunk into a merited oblivion, the page of history will still record, with perennial fame, the good deeds and noble actions of the patriot, the hero and the statesman; and grateful generations shall point to his example as a bright and unclouded load-star to guide them in the true course to honest and honourable distinction.

The author of this little work has made no attempt at an eulogium. From a long personal acquaintance with General Harrison, and a knowledge as well as admiration of his character, he has certainly felt at liberty to express himself on some points relating to his private life, more fully than he would otherwise have ventured. Still his sole endeavour has been to discharge his duty faithfully to his fellow-citizens, and render them at the present time an acceptable service by offering within as brief a space as possible, a clear, candid, and comprehensive narrative of the life of General Harrison, and of the wars and negotiations on our North-western frontier, in which he took so active a part, from the date of St. Clair's defeat to

the close of our last contest with Great Britain a period embracing a portion of our general history, full of exciting and thrilling interest, and yet but little known to the great mass of the people.

Many of the materials for this biography have been derived from "Dawson's Narrative of the Civil and Military Services of General Harrison," a large octavo published in Cincinnati, in 1824, but long since out of print; from "Butler's History of Kentucky;" and from "M'Afee's History of the Late War in the Western Country." "Hall's Memoir of the Public Services of William Henry Harrison" has likewise occasionally been consulted. And to ensure the necessary accuracy on many leading points of history, a due reference has also been made to our public documents and state papers connected with the events here recorded.

CONTENTS.

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CHAPTER I.

Harrison's birth and parentage. — Sketch of his father's public life and services. — Harrison's education. — His determination to enter the army.—Situation of our North-western frontier at that time. — British intrigues. — Defeat of General Harmar

CHAPTER II.

CHAPTER III.

Harrison resigns his commission in the army.—Is appointed Secretary and Lieutenant Governor of the North-western Territory.—Is elected Delegate to Congress.—Introduces a bill to regu-

(8)

CONTENTS.	13
late the disposal of the public lands.—Its justice and true policy.—Its success.—The North- western Territory divided.—Harrison resigns his seat in Congress.—Is appointed Governor of Indiana Territory	42
CHAPTER IV.	
Condition of Indiana Territory.—Harrison is appointed Superintendent of Indian Affairs and Commissioner for treating with the Indians.—His extensive jurisdiction and powers.—Harrison's address to the territorial legislature.—The cession of Louisiana to the United States	48
CHAPTER V.	
Intrigues of Tecumthe and the Prophet.—The Prophet's visit to Vincennes and interview with Harrison.—Treaty of Fort Wayne.—Dissatisfaction of Tecumthe.—Tecumthe's interview with the Governor.—The Governor's firmness and intrepidity.—Harrison's Message to the Legislature.—Triumphant refutation of slander	62
CHAPTER VI.	
Commencement of hostilities.—Harrison assembles the Militia and Volunteers.—He organizes his forces.—March to the Prophet's town.—Battle of Tippecanoe.—Its results	81
CHAPTER VII.	
Declaration of War with Great Britain.—Mea- sures adopted to defend our North-western fron- tier.—Governor Harrison is appointed Major	