JEFFERSONIAN DEMOCRACY IN NEW ENGLAND

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Jeffersonian Democracy in New England by William A. Robinson

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WILLIAM A. ROBINSON

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JEFFERSONIAN DEMOCRACY IN NEW ENGLAND

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This Essay Won the John Addison Porter Prize Yale University, 1913



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PREFACE

Although New England history since 1789 has for the most part received much less study than the Colonial and Revolutionary periods, one topic, Federalism, has received exceptional attention. The opposition, however, has been neglected. The New England branch of Thomas Jefferson's party had certain disadvantages. Its opponent was the party of wealth and culture whose members wrote the great controversial papers, delivered the memorable orations, and edited the ablest newspapers and pamphlets of the day. It had few leaders of outstanding ability and personality to interest the biographer. Furthermore the bitter partisanship of the age has in some cases passed into subsequent histories and biographies, with advantage to the Federalists. Nevertheless, the New England Republicans performed important services, both local and national, in a period full of domestic and foreign difficulties. The following study was begun at the suggestion of Professor Allen Johnson and carried on under his direction while the author was a student in the Graduate School of Yale University. In its original essay form it was awarded in 1913 the John Addison Porter prize, established by the Kingsley Trust Association (Scroll and Key Society of Yale College). It has subsequently been revised and enlarged. The author takes this opportunity to express his deep appreciation of Professor Johnson's interest and assistance at all stages of the work. Material for the study has been found in various New England libraries. The authorities of the American Antiquarian Society, the Massachusetts Historical Society, the Massachusetts State Library, the Boston Athenæum, and the Yale University Library have given valuable assistance which is gratefully acknowledged.

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