

**SPEECHES AND ESSAYS  
UPON  
POLITICAL SUBJECTS,  
FROM 1860 TO 1869**

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Speeches and essays upon political subjects, from 1860 to 1869 by William D. Northend

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**WILLIAM D. NORTHEND**

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SALEM:

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1869.

## PREFACE.

The speeches and essays on political subjects which are collected in this volume, were delivered or published during the eventful period which has elapsed since the Presidential election of 1860.

The opinions expressed were not in accordance with the popular sentiment at the time. My purpose was to vindicate, so far as I was able, the immutable principles upon which the Union as organized by the Constitution was based; and to show the importance of that Union for the welfare and happiness of the different great Communities which composed it. Although a wide departure from these principles has been made during this period, yet I have the fullest confidence that the American people will, at no distant day, return to them with a love strengthened by their experience; and that under the organism of the past, or a more effectual one which shall be suggested by the events of this period, a harmonious co-operation, based upon the reciprocity of interests of the people of the several States, will be revived and made perpetual.

With these convictions, I submit these speeches and essays to the calm judgment of my fellow-citizens of my native County of Essex, to whom I respectfully dedicate this small volume.

SALEM, AUGUST 20th, 1869.



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## THE PERSONAL LIBERTY BILL.\*

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MR. PRESIDENT—The subject which it has become our duty to consider at the present time, is one involving principles and rules of action, vastly transcending in importance the practical question of the utility of the laws which it is proposed to repeal or modify.

The subject forces irresistibly upon our minds a consideration of our duties and obligations as citizens, to sustain and give vitality to the wise and beneficent system of civil government which we have inherited, under which we live, and in which are involved all our precious hopes of the future.

By our action of to-day we shall deliberately and formally express for ourselves, and so far as we represent them, for the people of Massachusetts, whether,—irrespective of what people in other sections may do, without throwing into the balance our likes and our dislikes, our convictions for this or against that provision,—we will, to the letter and in the spirit,

\* Delivered in the Senate of Massachusetts, February 27, 1861.