

**SKETCHES OF PUBLIC
CHARACTERS. DRAWN FROM THE
LIVING AND THE DEAD. WITH
NOTICES OF OTHER MATTERS**

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Sketches of public characters. Drawn from the living and the dead. With notices of other matters
by Ignatius Loyola Robertson

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IGNATIUS LOYOLA ROBERTSON

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SKETCHES
OF
PUBLIC CHARACTERS.

DRAWN FROM
THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.

WITH
NOTICES OF OTHER MATTERS.

BY
IGNATIUS LOYOLA ROBERTSON, *Esq. D. D.*
A RESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

..... He that writes,
Or makes a feast, more certainly invites
His judges than his friends; there's not a guest,
But will find something wanting or ill dress'd."

"But here, where Freedom's equal throne
To all her valiant sons is known;
Where all are conscious of her cares,
And each the power that rules him shares,
Here for the hard, whose dearest language,
Leaves public arguments unsteer'd,
Bid public praise farewell;
Let him to fitter scenes remove,
Far from the hero's and the patriot's love,
And tall mysterious monies to stun her in their cell."

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CONTENTS.

	LETTER I.	
Webster	5
	LETTER II.	
Calhoun	30
	LETTER III.	
Everett	39
	LETTER IV.	
Livingston	. . . . .	37
	LETTER V.	
Jones	. . . . .	44
	LETTER VI.	
Randolph	. . . . .	47
	LETTER VII.	
Johnson	. . . . .	53
	LETTER VIII.	
Dwight	. . . . .	57
	LETTER IX.	
✓ The Presidents	. . . . .	63
	LETTER X.	
City of Washington	. . . . .	82
	LETTER XI.	
The Capitol—its ornaments	. . . . .	100

LETTER XII.	
The President's House	110
LETTER XIII.	
Library of Congress—Columbian Institute—Literature of Washington—Periodicals	117
LETTER XIV.	
Colonization Society—The Clergy—Medical School—Orphan Asylum—Tyber Creek—Manners and Customs—College—Convent of Visitation	132
LETTER XV.	
New York—Poets	157
LETTER XVI.	
Basil Hall—Owen	172
LETTER XVII.	
Painters	194
LETTER XVIII.	
Dr. Mitchell	205
LETTER XIX.	
Boston	212
LETTER XX.	
Bartley	219
LETTER XXI.	
Gen. Brown—Tudor—Judge Washington	241
LETTER XXII.	
Patrol Office	253

DEDICATION.

TO COLONEL A. WARD,

OF WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N. Y.

DEAR SIR,

I DEDICATE this little work to you, remembering, with pleasure and gratitude, your kindness in rendering me every facility in gratifying my curiosity, on my first visit to Washington, while you held a seat in Congress. I had been long enough in the United States to feel an attachment to the country ; and I would not yield a particle of my reverence for the distinguished men of it, to any reviler of them, whoever he might be. There is only one point in which I am often constrained to agree with those who are unfriendly to this nation, and that from the truth of the remark, not the temper of it.

They say that "you never think of a man, however great his virtues, and his talents, when he is out of office ; that sometimes, at the death of some one who has filled a considerable space in the world, your gazettes praise him to-day, and this is curtailed in to-morrow's paper ; and by the time the next edition of an American Biographical Dictionary is printed, he appears in a flat, chalky picture, of half a column, as graceless as his epitaph, in some country church-yard, where his bones may rest ; and this, perhaps, a character whose lights and shades, properly disposed of, might have been made a splendid portrait."

The writers of the day should speak freely of the living ; the truly great have nothing to fear ; the oftener their merits are discussed, the better for them. In countries like England and the United States, the abodes of free institutions and freer minds, every thing should be presented in full relief ; political and civil rights should be closely examined, and the manners, habits, and morals of the people, become a common topic : the characters, services, claims, and pretensions of men in high places, should be searched out and precisely adjudged. The eyes of the pa-

triot writer should never be shut to the faults of men in power, whether their station or authority be executive, legislative, ministerial, or subaltern. I write my creed openly, my dear sir, because I believe in it sincerely; but ask no man to follow it implicitly. You and I have long since settled this, that to be friends, it is not necessary to agree in every particular in politics or religion; and that more light is to be obtained from a strong and an honest mind, that differs from us, than from a shallow one whose great merit is his acquiescence; neither you nor I love feeble spirits. I have spoken of men, of measures, and of things, after my own manner; no one is answerable but myself: if there is aught of evil in it, be it mine; if aught of good, place it, if you please, to the impressions received from friends and intimate acquaintances. You will probably revisit the seat of government again as a politician; your services and talents will be wanted. I shall not be there, *as a looker-on in Venice*; but whatever may be your pathway in the journey of life, whether in the courts of justice or in the halls of the legislature, may you be successful and happy, and still retain that bland and courteous

disposition, and that love to do kind things, which secures the good man's benison, and the orphan's prayer; and without which talents, office, and fame, are empty names.

Most truly,

Your devoted friend,

THE AUTHOR.

NEW-YORK, JUNE, 1830.