

*AMERICAN STATESMEN

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JOHN T. MORSE, JR.

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LEWIS CASS

BY

ANDREW C. McLAUGHLIN

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF HISTORY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



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PREFACE.

I HAVE made no effort in the pages of this book to give more than the leading facts of the public life of Lewis Cass. He has been studied as the representative of a section of the country; yet his general influence and his personal characteristics have been briefly presented. Little material was found ready at hand for the task. He left no diary or accumulated correspondence, and only a few volumes of printed speeches and addresses. The personality of the man had to be gathered from a careful consideration of his public utterances, and from the recollections of his friends. Some of these are still living, and have kindly and generously assisted me. I have neither cared nor dared to place an estimate upon his character different from that held by the men who knew him and trusted him. I have conferred with political foes as well as political friends, and have found a remarkable consensus of opinion. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the judgments of the book

will not be attributed to the natural partiality of a biographer.

I have received but little help from either of the biographies of General Cass, both of which were written during his lifetime. There has been danger in coming into close contact with their indiscriminate justification, and yet such volumes aid us in appreciating the limitations and conditions of a political period which we have ourselves outgrown. Mr. Smith, while writing "The Life and Times of Lewis Cass," seems to have had access to a diary which was kept by Cass when on his tour to Greece and the far East. Of the original I can find no trace, and have felt at liberty to refer to Mr. Smith's excerpts. In other particulars the pages of the public documents and of established authorities have furnished me with materials. The references that are indicated do not purport to include a complete list of the sources of information or of the books used in preparing this volume. There has been no attempt to strengthen every assertion by appropriate reference to authority. When a suggestion has been consciously taken from some well-known writer, or a phrase has been borrowed because of its peculiar aptness, an acknowledgment has been made by a foot-note. Occasionally an unexpected, novel, or pivotal statement

NOTE.

My attention has been called to the fact that I have been misled by untrustworthy authorities in tracing the genealogy of Cass. Savage's "Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England" indicates that Jonathan Cass was descended from John, of Hampton, 1644. The full line of descent I have had some difficulty in getting trace of. I am assured by Mr. C. L. C. Cass, who has made examination of material now inaccessible to me, and of which I had no knowledge when writing the text, that Joseph, the father of Jonathan, was born about 1725, and was the son of James Cass, who belongs in the Hampton line of descent.

A. C. McL.

February 1, 1892.

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