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978-1-108-00302-5 - The Statesmen of America in 1846

Sarah Mytton Maury

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The Statesmen of America in 1846

In this book, first published in 1847, the English author Sarah Mytton Maury gives a personal and very positive account of her impressions of the United States upon arriving there in late 1845. Through marriage she gains access to many American statesmen of her day, and the book is dedicated to James Buchanan, later President of the United States. Maury portrays prominent senators, judges, officers, members of the clergy and Presidents John Adams and James K. Polk. Many of the descriptions are interspersed with extracts from speeches and letters by those portrayed. The book gives a great deal of attention to the early nineteenth-century dispute between Britain and the United States about territorial claims in the North-West, the so-called 'Oregon Question'. On this question as in other matters of contention or cultural differences between the two countries, Maury maintains a position of neutrality. This book will appeal to historians of American culture and society, those studying nineteenth-century women's writing, and readers interested in international travel during the Victorian period.

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THE
STATESMEN OF AMERICA

IN
1846.

BY
SARAH MYTTON MAURY.

“ Veritas et Justitia hos reddunt Honores.”



LONDON :
LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN, AND LONGMANS,
PATERNOSTER ROW.

1847.

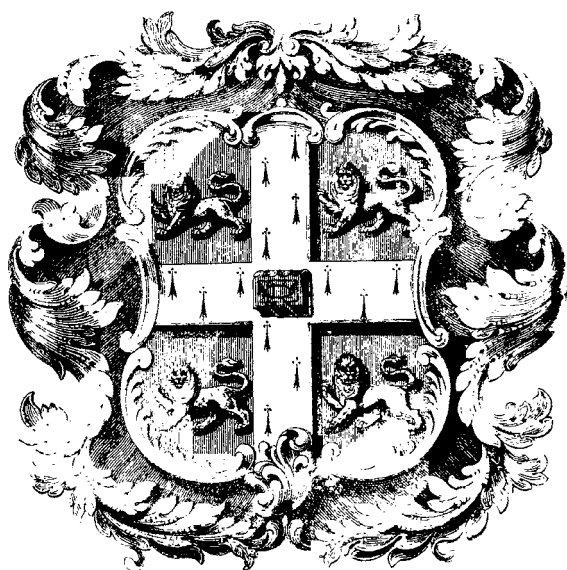
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TO THE HONOURABLE

JAMES BUCHANAN,

SECRETARY OF STATE,

AT WASHINGTON.

MY DEAR SIR,

AT length I have the pleasure of presenting to your acceptance the “STATESMEN OF AMERICA IN 1846.” They will be succeeded by the “OPINIONS OF AN ENGLISHWOMAN ON AMERICA.”—Both of these works are indebted to your suggestion for their origin; and for the privilege of being inscribed with a name so distinguished as that of JAMES BUCHANAN.

I have been anxious that the “Statesmen” should appear in Washington during the Session of Congress in 1847; presuming that most of

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my friends will be there again assembled. Should the Portraits be pronounced good likenesses, I shall be proud and happy ; and even should they be found but faint in their resemblance, the attempt itself to delineate them, will prove to the valued originals how deeply engraven on my memory are their names and features.

The Journals announce a change in the political aspect of the country. It appears to me, however, that the Whig elections in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and especially in the Dictator State of New York, have arisen out of questions purely local, and affecting those sections alone. The actual true majorities in the United States will ever be vested in the Democratic ranks ; naturally and invariably the dominant party in a Republic. It must be so ;—though incidental circumstances would sometimes cause it to appear otherwise. I anticipate that the Americans will make a Democratic President in 1848 ; and, perhaps, a moderate or a Democratic Whig in 1852.

But I will cease to interrupt you with my

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English fireside lucubrations ; though I indulge in them frequently for the sake of recalling my pleasant residence at Washington, in the midst of its frank and social circles. I trust to be remembered, and *sometimes* to be wished for by many of the actors in those brilliant scenes, which their kindness rendered to me so fascinating.

Will you, my dear Mr. BUCHANAN, present to our mutual friends, in the name of my husband, his most grateful acknowledgments for the hospitality and protection accorded to his Wife and Son by his faithful and generous countrymen ;—and in my name, will you add, that I anticipate with delight the time when I shall return again to be among them. England is my birthplace, and as such is dear ; she is the nursery of my earliest and tenderest affections, and as such her name is sweet :—

“ Here my Father’s house was reared ;
Here my Mother’s voice was heard ;
Here my infant children played,
Beneath the oak’s wide spreading shade.”

But in all the essential advantages of life, Ame-

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rica is her superior ; and these I wish to seek
for my Sons' and for my Daughters' sake.

You have promised me a welcome ; and well
you know the value of the boon you offer. The
Americans have already given me a place in
their homes and in their hearts, and soon I shall
come to claim it ;—until then and always, I
remain,

My dear Sir,

Your faithful Servant,

And affectionate Friend,

SARAH MYTTON MAURY.

LIVERPOOL, 31st DECEMBER, 1846.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAY I ARRIVED IN WASHINGTON.

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