

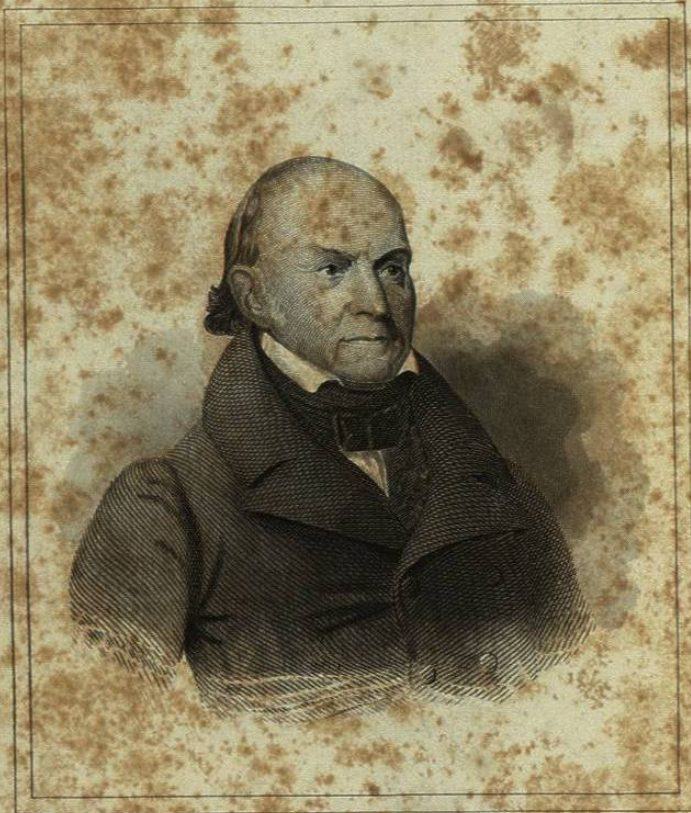
W. H. SEWARD





1020045060





Engraved from a Painting by A.B. Durand.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

J. Q. Adams

L I F E

AND

PUBLIC SERVICES

OF JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

BY JOHN W. FOSTER.

NEW YORK:

WILLIAM WOOD & COMPANY, 15 NASSAU ST.

1850.

WITH A HISTORY OF HIS "CONTEXT."

WILLIAM WOOD & COMPANY, PRINTERS.

13609



J. Q. Adams

L I F E
AND
PUBLIC SERVICES
OF
JOHN QUINCY ADAMS,

SIXTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

WITH

T H E E U L O G Y

DELIVERED BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE OF NEW YORK.

BY WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

~~~~~  
"THIS IS THE END OF EARTH—I AM CONTENT."  
~~~~~

AUBURN:
DERBY, MILLER AND COMPANY.
1849.

13609

E377
S51

923

A



BIBLIOTECA

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1849, by
DERBY, MILLER & COMPANY,
In the Clerk's Office for the Northern District of New York.



ACERVO GENERAL

128221

ADVERTISEMENT

TO THE
FRIENDS OF EQUAL LIBERTY
AND HUMAN RIGHTS
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD,

This Volume

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Publishers apologize for the delay in issuing this volume, which was announced by them as in press, more than one year since, shortly after the decease of its illustrious subject. Gov. Seward, in undertaking its preparation, was well aware of the engrossing attention which his professional duties required, but looked constantly for relaxation from his multiplied business engagements, in the hope that he might be able to complete the work commenced by him. It however became necessary for its timely completion, to obtain the literary assistance of an able writer, who has, under his auspices, completed the work. The Publishers confidently believe, that it will in all respects, be received as a faithful and impartial history of the Life of the "Old Man Eloquent," and worthy a place in the library of every friend of liberty and humanity.

AUBURN, April, 1849.

yond the reach of the great mass of readers. In view of these circumstances, there was an evident want of a volume of more limited compass—a book which would come within the means of the people generally,—and adapted not only for libraries, and the higher classes of society, but would find its way into the midst of those moving in the humbler walks of life. To supply this want, the present work has been prepared. The endeavor has been made to compress within a brief compass, the principal events of the life of Mr. Adams, and the scenes in which he participated; and to portray the leading traits of character which distinguished him from his contemporaries. It has been the aim to present such an aspect of the history and principles of this wonderful man, as shall do justice to his memory, and afford an example which the youth of America may profitably imitate in seeking for a model by which to shape their course through life. How far this end has been attained, an intelligent and candid public must determine.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
CHAPTER I.	
The Ancestry, Birth, and Childhood of John Quincy Adams.	17
CHAPTER II.	
John Quincy Adams studies Law—His Practice—Engages in Public Life—Appointed Minister to the Hague.	45
CHAPTER III.	
Mr. Adams transferred to Berlin—His Marriage—Literary Pursuits—Travels in Silesia—Negotiates Treaties with Sweden and Prussia—Recalled to the United States.	63
CHAPTER IV.	
Mr. Adams' Return to the United States—Elected to the Massachusetts Senate—Appointed U. S. Senator—Supports Mr. Jefferson—Professor of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres—Appointed Minister to Russia.	82
CHAPTER V.	
Mr. Adams' arrival at St. Petersburg—His Letters to his Son on the Bible—His Religious Opinions—Russia offers Mediation between Great Britain and the United States—	

Proceeds to Ghent to negotiate for Peace—Visits Paris—
Appointed Minister at St. James—Arrives in London. 97

CHAPTER VI.

Mr. Adams appointed Secretary of State—Arrives in the
United States—Public Dinners in New York and Boston—
Takes up his Residence in Washington—Defends Gen.
Jackson in the Florida Invasion—Recognition of South
American Independence—Greek Revolution. 113

CHAPTER VII.

Mr. Adams' nomination to the Presidency—Spirited Presi-
dential Campaign—No choice by the People—Election goes
to the House of Representatives—Mr. Adams elected Presi-
dent—His Inauguration—Forms his Cabinet. 137

CHAPTER VIII.

Charges of Corruption against Mr. Clay and Mr. Adams—Mr.
Adams enters upon his duties as President—Visit of
La Fayette—Tour through the United States—Mr. Adams
delivers him a Farewell Address—Departs from the United
States. 162

CHAPTER IX.

John Adams and Thomas Jefferson—Their Correspondence—
Their Death—Mr. Webster's Eulogy—John Q. Adams
visits Quincy—His Speech at the Public School Dinner in
Faneuil Hall. 187

CHAPTER X.

Mr. Adams' Administration—Refuses to remove political
opposers from office—Urges the importance of Internal Im-
provements—Appoints Commissioners to the Congress of
Panama—His policy toward the Indian Tribes—His Speech
on breaking ground for the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal—
Bitter opposition to his Administration—Fails of re-election
to the Presidency—Retires from office. 202

CHAPTER XI.

Mr. Adams' multiplied attainments—Visited by Southern
Gentlemen—His Report on Weights and Measures—His
Poetry—Erects a Monument to the memory of his Parents
—Elected Member of Congress—Letter to the Bible Society
—Delivers Eulogy on Death of ex-President Monroe. 232

CHAPTER XII.

Mr. Adams takes his seat in Congress—His Position and
Habits as a Member—His Independence of Party—His
Eulogy on the Death of ex-President James Madison—His
advocacy of the Right of Petition, and Opposition to Sla-
very—Insurrection in Texas—Mr. Adams makes known its
ulterior object. 254

CHAPTER XIII.

Mr. Adams presents Petitions for the Abolishment of Slavery
—Opposition of Southern Members—Exciting Scenes in the
House of Representatives—Marks of confidence in Mr.
Adams. 280

CHAPTER XIV.

Mr. Adams' firmness in discharge of duty—His exertions
in behalf of the Amistad Slaves—His connection with the
Smithsonian Bequest—Tour through Canada and New York
—His reception at Buffalo—Visits Niagara Falls—Attends
worship with the Tuscarora Indians—His reception at
Rochester—at Auburn—at Albany—at Pittsfield—Visits
Cincinnati—Assists in laying the Corner Stone of an Ob-
servatory. 300

CHAPTER XV.

Mr. Adams' Last Appearance in Public at Boston—His
Health—Lectures on his Journey to Washington—Remote

	PAGE
Cause of his Decease—Struck with Paralysis—Leaves Quincy for Washington for the last time—His final Sickness in the House of Representatives—His Death—The Funeral at Washington—Removal of the Body to Quincy—Its Interment.	325
EULOGY.	357

THE LIFE OF JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

CHAPTER I.

THE ANCESTRY, BIRTH, AND CHILDHOOD, OF JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

THE Puritan Pilgrims of the May-Flower landed on Plymouth Rock, and founded the Colony of Massachusetts, on the 21st day of December, 1620.

HENRY ADAMS, the founder of the Adams family in America, fled from ecclesiastical oppression in England, and joined the Colony at a very early period, but at what precise time is not recorded. He erected his humble dwelling at a place within the present town of QUINCY, then known as MOUNT WOLLASTON, and is believed to have been an inhabitant when the first Christian Church was gathered there in 1639. On the organization of the town of Braintree, which comprised the place of his residence, he was elected Clerk of the Town. He died on the eighth day of October, 1646. His memory is preserved by a plain granite monument, erected in the burial-ground at Quincy,