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ANDREW JACKSON.

ANDREW JACKSON AS A PUBLIC MAN. WHAT HE WAS, WHAT CHANCE HE HAD, AND WHAT HE DID WITH THEM. By William Graham Sumner, Professor of Political and Social Sciences in Yale College. [American Statesmen series.] 16mo. pp. 402. Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

It is generally believed in Tennessee that Andrew Jackson was a great man; that he had many chances of achieving greatness, and that he availed himself of them all. Prof. Sumner, writing under the inspiration of an age widely different from that of Jackson's and removed from it by a century, not of years, but of deeds and changes and growth, attempts to make it appear that he was not equal to his chances, and that what he did accomplish was by dint of the irrepressible fighting element rather than by foresight, consideration, discretion, or statesmanlike tact and skill. He regards him as a barbarian without the restraints of home-training or close society, and unable to distinguish between the man who disputed his notions and the man who violated his rights. This is a gross caricature of Jackson's character. Irascible and quick-tempered he was; and frank, candid and honest in the avowal of his principles, he was impatient of those who were less so, he was even suspicious to a degree, but he was as far removed from barbarism as any of the leading men of his time. His old soldiers who survived the contests in Alabama, Florida and Louisiana, in which he bore not only won victories but the hearts of the American people, have always borne testimony to his high-bred dignity. Webster, who was a good judge of men, characterized him as "grave, mild and reserved, with manners more presidential than those of any candidate." "Manners make the man." Prof. Sumner himself speaks of Jackson's "distinguished and elegant bearing." It was said of him that when he made his appearance in Philadelphia as the first representative of Tennessee in Congress, that his dress was that of a Western hunter; that his leather suit was shrunken, old and ill-fitting; and his hair, worn in the fashion of the time, was tied with a rusty leathern thong. Tall, gaunt and awkward, but perfectly self-possessed, he was, even in this guise and at that time, a notable figure among the historic soldiers and statesmen, who were then making the Quaker City as brilliant in capital and desirable as a place of residence as New York or Washington have since become. Tradition has brought us a complaint from some one of the beauties of Washington's court as to the lilliemelting leathers of the young statesman, but not a word that would contradict the words of Webster and the admission of the professor himself of a *personal* remarkable for its ease and grace and the kind and gentle manner, behind which burned the terrible sarcasm and wit that made him irresistible as a soldier, and the tempestuous temper which politicians feared. His servants loved him, his soldiers idolized him and his friends adored him, and would do any thing to serve or defend him. His hatred of oppression and injustice never slumbered, and he never failed to espouse the cause of the weak, the oppressed or the wronged. This led him into many of the personal contests that to our more modern eyes detract from the nobleness and evenness of character which we love to invest such men with. But choler was an attribute of his age. The "code" was recognized in all parts of the country and the best of men thought it no derogation from their dignity to yield at times to their passions. Even the Father of his Country was not above this weakness as he discovered at Monmouth. Men's prejudices were then very strong, and Jackson was the heir of two centuries of religious contention and of intolerance, bigotry, but it is much to his credit that he rose above this and through his whole life gave no evidence of the bitterness, implacability and hate which in his day separated the Presbyterians of the North of Ireland from their Catholic fellow-countrymen. To the extent not of toleration, but of perfect freedom of conscience, he was superior to the surroundings and training of his early life. Thoughtful men will readily see that there must have been very severe mental discipline to bring about a result so marked as that which separates the enlightened, intelligent man from the narrow, intolerant and bigoted bigot who is impatient of those who differ with him. Jackson loved his country and hated its enemies, whether they were British, Spaniards or Indians. The fierce earnestness of his soul was an impulse which could not always resist, but it cannot be said of him that he ever allowed it to betray him into excesses. In repose he was like a child, yielding and plastic, devoted to his wife and the children they surrounded themselves with. These all had the sweetest memories of the man who is painted as implacable and unforgiving and characterized as a barbarian by Prof. Sumner. His tender thoughtfulness and sweet solicitude for his dead wife is never forgotten by Tennessees when they rehearse the story of his life. His generosity, his personal cleanly, high sense of honor, love of truth, his chivalrous defense of his wife on the least occasion and his quick response to to the call of women in distress, all the grace of Peggy O'Neil—these are not the attributes, belongings or attachments of a barbarian. They are the wonderful results of an education and self-restraint. To his soldiers he was like a father, and like children they rallied at his call to the standard of our country, and imperiled their lives in enterprises that, in the light of the military canons of our day, were rash and perilous to a degree savoring of the forlorn hope. Like Lincoln at a later day, he put the constitution away and ignored it on two or three occasions. He would not allow anything to interfere with the supremacy of the military power, and it is not yet been made clear that he was not justified in all that he did in Louisiana and Florida, for which he was afterward fined and rebuked by Congress and the courts. He was in both these instances surrounded by enemies, and vigilance was as much necessary at the seat of civil power and discretion at the front. Prof. Sumner has evidently set out to deal with his subject. He is cold, calculating and cutting, and tears away the glamour mercilessly from our idol. Yet his book is well worth studying. He has grouped in 380 pages a great mass of contradictory and controversial matter which he is careful to put before the reader in his own way, guided by predilections anything but democratic. The issue to be fair and fetched to be just can not be doubted, but no man ever yet has risen superior to his surroundings. The air of New England is not as warm as that of Tennessee, and the policies of the North dictated by the trade necessities of Boston, have always been at variance with those of the South. Besides Jackson was pre-eminently a man of action; Prof. Sumner was pre-eminently a man of speculation, and his occupation and surroundings they are as wide apart as the poles. It could not, therefore in justice be expected that the professor would give with anything of the enthusiasm of the idolater of New Orleans, or that he would look beyond the statesman directing his contests with the persistence of a rarely energetic character and paint the trusty his store at Clover Bottom, or the husband, father and master at the Hermitage. "At the fireside Jackson's real nature was paramount. As the professor admits, he was seen to public life. He resigned his first office as public prosecutor of Washington county, N. C., and subsequently abandoned a congressional career of his own accord. The Senate was not to his liking either, and he was glad when finally released from all the cares of public life, he retired to the delightful shade of his retreat near the Cumberland. But this interesting book is not wholly devoted to Jackson. His friends and enemies are all sketched with as free and bold a hand. Of Maj. William B. Lewis, who survived him many years, and who was nearer to him than any other man, Prof. Sumner gives us this portrait:

Lewis was the great father of the wire-pullers. He first practiced in a masterly and scientific way the art of starting movements, apparently spontaneous, at a distance and in a quarter from which they win prestige or popularity in order that those movements thus produced, in that place and at that place, the effects intended by the true agent, who in the meantime remains in the background, may move in the direction in which, from the beginning, he desired to go. On this system political activity is another form of theatrical. The personal initiative is concealed. The actor should be great and dexterous in his management. I hate to nothing vulgar about him. There was a breadth and generosity in his plots and plans. He was very far-sighted and prudent. He had the great knowledge which is called the wire-puller's knowledge of men. He knew the class among whom Jackson's influence was strongest; he knew their notions, prejudices, tastes and instincts. He knew what would appeal to them, what would rouse them, what would be marked as that which separates the enlightened, intelligent man from the narrow, intolerant and bigoted bigot who is impatient of those who differ with him. Jackson loved his country and hated its enemies, whether they were British, Spaniards or Indians. The fierce earnestness of his soul was an impulse which could not always resist, but it cannot be said of him that he ever allowed it to betray him into excesses. In repose he was like a child, yielding and plastic, devoted to his wife and the children they surrounded themselves with. These all had the sweetest memories of the man who is painted as implacable and unforgiving and characterized as a barbarian by Prof. Sumner. His tender thoughtfulness and sweet solicitude for his dead wife is never forgotten by Tennessees when they rehearse the story of his life. His generosity, his personal cleanly, high sense of honor, love of truth, his chivalrous defense of his wife on the least occasion and his quick response to to the call of women in distress, all the grace of Peggy O'Neil—these are not the attributes, belongings or attachments of a barbarian. They are the wonderful results of an education and self-restraint. To his soldiers he was like a father, and like children they rallied at his call to the standard of our country, and imperiled their lives in enterprises that, in the light of the military canons of our day, were rash and perilous to a degree savoring of the forlorn hope. Like Lincoln at a later day, he put the constitution away and ignored it on two or three occasions. He would not allow anything to interfere with the supremacy of the military power, and it is not yet been made clear that he was not justified in all that he did in Louisiana and Florida, for which he was afterward fined and rebuked by Congress and the courts. He was in both these surroundings