

SPELLBINDERS OF THE PAST

Famous American Campaigners and How They Swayed Audiences.

NOTED NAMES ON THE ROSTER

Style, Methods and Power of Clay, Webster, Conkling, Blaine, Seward, Douglas, Lincoln and Bryan.

No chapter in our political annals is richer in human interest than the one which has to do with the men whose gift of eloquence and persuasive speech has been a deciding influence in more than one presidential canvass.

Clay, perhaps, was a more popular orator than Webster. His was a voice of great compass, power and melody, and with it he moved at will even a hostile assemblage to smiles and tears and enthusiasm. Clay's skill in electorship, however, was due largely to his familiarity with the manners and customs of farmers, tenants and laborers.

Webster's power as an orator. Webster's triumphs on the stump were of a different but no less decisive order. When he was to speak no hall was big enough to contain those who desired to hear him, and with his pre-eminent power of speech, his singular charm of presence and his dignity of certain movements, he never failed to profoundly move his auditors.

The impression has been current that Webster's great speeches were unstudied, but as a matter of fact, he always was a laborious student, and in the early part of his career he expended a great deal of time in the preparation of his public addresses.

Orator, Wit and Humorist. After Clay and Webster the most popular stump orator of the first half of the last century was Thomas Corwin of Ohio.

Women Who Wear Well. It is astonishing how great a change a few years of married life often make in the appearance and disposition of many women.

Another famous campaigner orator of sixty years ago was Sergeant S. Prentiss, a native of Maine, who, removing at an early age to Mississippi, there rose, in a space of time extraordinarily brief, to a master place at the bar.

Prentiss afterward made an arrangement with the proprietor of the menagerie to divide time with the monkey and the clown, the first hour being given to politics.

Others who heard Van Buren bear witness to the fact that in wit and humor he was almost without a rival at the bar or on the stump.

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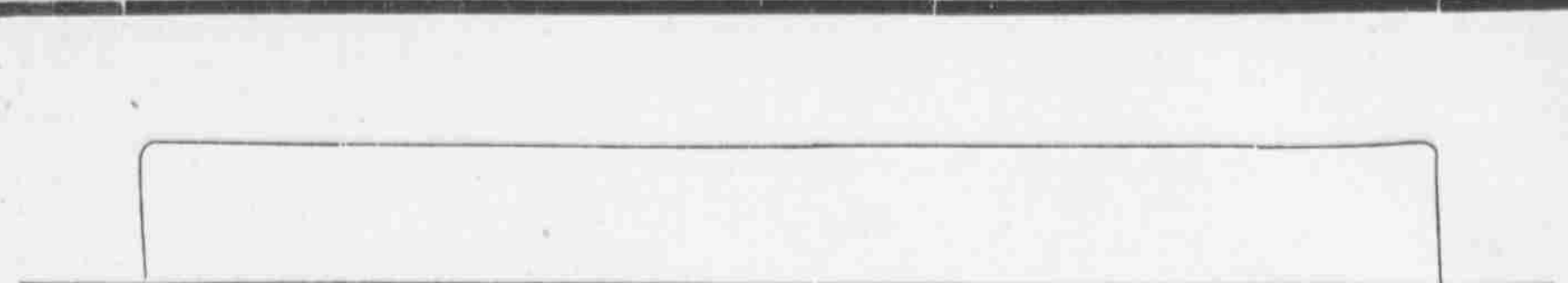
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