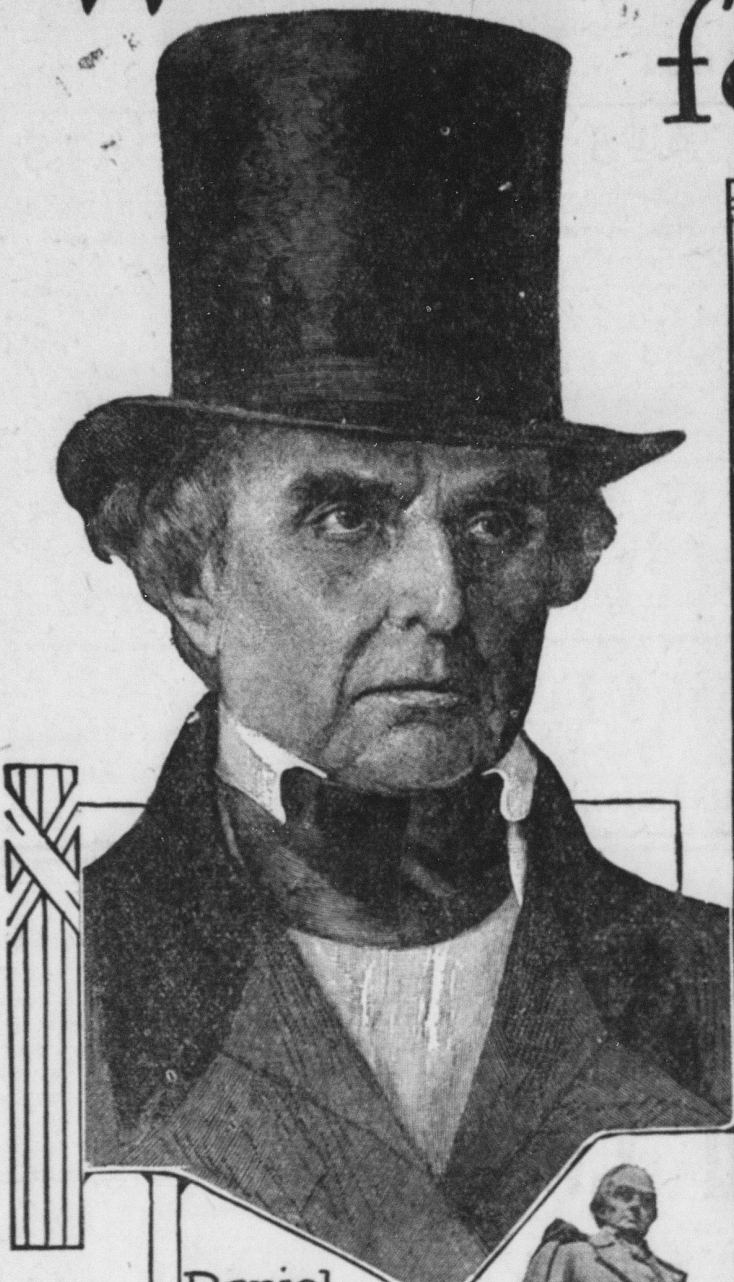


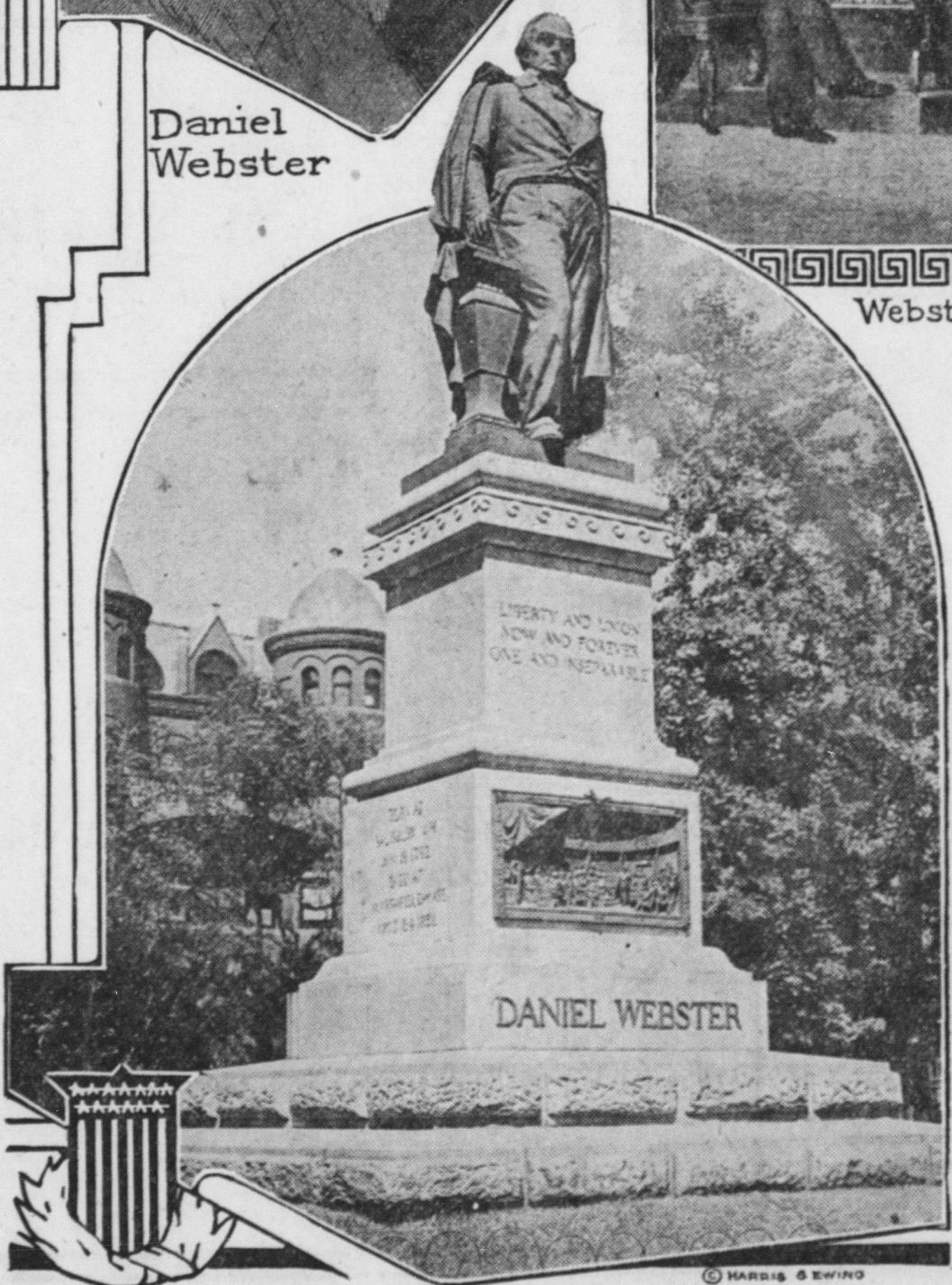
# When Death Came for Daniel



Daniel Webster



Webster Replying to Hayne



Statue of Daniel Webster

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

**I**T WAS just 70 years ago that there passed from the American scene a great American statesman and one of the most famous orators in all history. For it was on a Sunday morning, October 24, 1852, that death came for Daniel Webster—the "godlike Webster" one of his contemporaries once called him. With his wife and his last remaining son beside his bed and knowing that the end was near, he half-rose.

From the lips whose eloquence had played upon the emotions of millions came the final words: "I still live!" And thus he passed prophetic judgment upon his own career.

For this man who had aspired to the Presidency and had twice failed is remembered and will be remembered when lesser men who gained that goal are long since forgotten. He is remembered as the greatest defender of the Constitution of the United States for, in the words of a recent biographer, Gamaliel Bradford, "So long as these states hold together in a unified government, so long as the Stars and Stripes float over a great American Republic, so long should the citizens of that Republic, of whatsoever origin or creed, remember that few men did more to establish or maintain their country than Daniel Webster."

But even if he were not remembered for what he did, he would still be remembered for what he was—"the Demosthenes of America," even though more than a century has passed since Webster stood in the United States senate and participated in the debate which grew out of a resolution introduced by Senator Foote of Connecticut which had to do with the sale of public lands in the West. Comparatively unimportant in itself, the subject of the resolution was made the excuse for a sectional controversy between Webster and Senator Hayne of South Carolina in which the doctrine of nullification of federal

power by the states had become the dominant issue.

After an oratorical exchange between the two men which lasted throughout several days Daniel Webster finally arose for his now-famous reply to Hayne. There was a three-fold purpose in his speech: to answer Hayne's personal taunts, to vindicate Massachusetts in her participation in the Hartford convention during the War of 1812 where the doctrine of nullification had made its first appearance in our history; and to show that the Constitution was not a mere compact between sovereign states and to expose the fallacy of attempting to turn the natural right of revolution against the government into a right reserved under the Constitution to overturn the government itself.

Then it was that "the godlike Webster" uttered the words which have come ringing down the years as a masterpiece of oratory, from which these two passages are forever famous:

"Mr. President, I shall enter on no encomium upon Massachusetts; she needs none. There she stands. Behold her and judge for yourself. There is her history; the world knows it by heart. The past, at least, is secure. There is Boston, and Concord, and Lexington, and Bunker Hill; and there they will remain forever. The bones of her sons, falling in the great struggle for independence, now lie mingled with the soil of every state, from New England to Georgia; and there they will lie forever. And, sir, where American liberty raised its first voice, and where its youth was nurtured, and sustained, there it still lives in the strength of its manhood and full of its original spirit. If discord and disunion shall wound it, if party strife and blind ambition shall hawk at and tear it, if folly and madness, if unreason under necessary and salutary restraint shall succeed in separating it from that Union by which alone its existence is made sure, it will stand, in the end, by the side of that cradle in which its infancy was rocked; it will stretch forth its arm with whatever vigor it may still retain, over the friends who gather round

it; and it will fall at last, if fall it must, amidst the proudest monuments of its own glory and on the very spot of its origin."

Then followed this peroration:  
 "When my eyes shall have turned to behold for the last time the sun in heaven, may I not see him shining on the broken and dishonored fragments of a once-glorious Union; on states severed, discordant, belligerent; on a land rent with civil feuds, or drenched, it may be, in fraternal blood. Let their last feeble and lingering glance rather behold the gorgeous ensign of the Republic, now known and honored through the earth, still full-high advanced, its arms and trophies streaming in their original luster, not a stripe erased or polluted, nor a single star obscured, bearing for its motto no such miserable interrogatory as 'What is all this worth?' nor those other words of delusion and folly, 'Liberty first and Union afterwards,' but everywhere, spread all over in characters of living light, blazing on all its ample folds as they float over the sea and over the land, and in every wind under the whole heavens, that other sentiment, dear to every true American heart—Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

Webster was born on a New Hampshire farm January 18, 1782—so this year is the one hundred and fifth anniversary of his birth as well as the seventieth anniversary of his famous speech. His parents were poor, but they were determined their son should have an education. Accordingly, Webster was entered first at Exeter and then, in 1797, at Dartmouth college. After winning his degree he served briefly as schoolmaster at Fryeburg, Maine. But in 1804 he took the decisive step and went to Boston, where he entered the law office of Christopher Gore, an excellent lawyer who saw in Webster qualifications far beyond those of an ordinary law clerk.

Diligent in his studies, the dark, noble-browed, handsome young Webster was not long in being admitted to the Boston bar and shortly after his father died he assumed the elder Webster's debts, removed to Boscowan, N. H., and then transferred his law business to his brother, Ezekiel. He himself went to Portsmouth, where he came in contact, among others, with Jeremiah Mason, one of the outstanding lawyers of the time. On opposing sides, Mason and Webster were to make legal history. People came miles to hear them argue their cases.

Webster attained his first fame shortly thereafter when he expressed most clearly the views of a large section of the people against the War of 1812. It was Webster, as a delegate to a convention held in August of 1812 by the citizens of Rockingham county to oppose the war against England, who wrote the famous Rockingham Memorial.

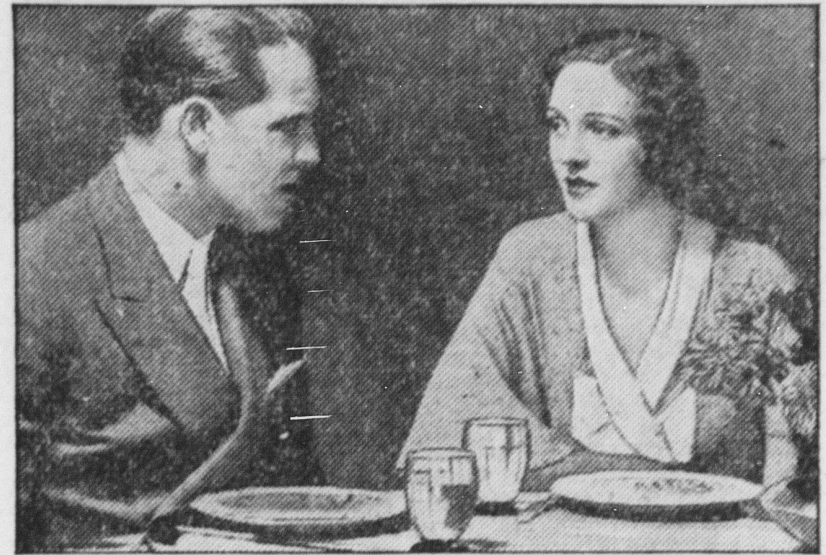
Massachusetts rewarded him for this service by sending him to congress in 1813 and there, although he was only thirty-one years of age, his legal reputation was so great that Henry Clay, who was speaker of the house, made him a member of the committee on foreign relations. He was re-elected but at the conclusion of his second term in 1817 he left congress to return to his law practice.

In 1822 he was returned to congress, where he became a supporter of that "tariff of abominations" which so outraged Calhoun, and in 1827 he was prevailed upon to accept the United States senatorship from Massachusetts.

From that time on his fame increased constantly, becoming international in its scope. But although ambition turned his eyes toward the White House, he was never to realize the attainment of that goal. When the Whig party was organized, Webster became one of its leaders; but, just as that party failed to offer the Presidency to its other great leader, Henry Clay, so it failed to offer it to Webster. He could have had the Vice Presidency, but refused it; he was, however, secretary of state under both Harrison and Tyler.

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**Old Piratical Haunt**  
 St. Thomas was once the home of two great pirate chiefs. One was called Blackbeard, because his beard was so black. And the other was Bluebeard, because his beard was blacker than black. Blackbeard's castle still dominates the harbor of St. Thomas, and could be bought for the proverbial song. It is a tower of crumbling stone, haunted, they say, with the ghosts of pirates bold and their lights of love.

**Bats Not Blind**  
 Of the many varieties of bats there are none that cannot see, although, being nocturnal in their habits, their eyes are better suited for seeing in the dark than in a bright light.  
 Thought has always secured better results than intuition.  
 One of the greatest aids to fame is an odd name.

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 Is found in the daily use of this pure medicated soap. Price 25c.  
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**Errors**  
 The little I have seen of the world teaches me to look upon the errors of others in sorrow, not in anger. When I take the history of one poor heart that has sinned and suffered, and represent to myself the struggles and temptations it has passed through, the brief pulsation of joy, the feverish inquietude of hope and fear, the pressure of want, the desertion of friends, I would fain leave the erring soul of my fellow man with him from whose hand it came.—Longfellow.

**His Good Quality**  
 Judge—But, madam, how could you marry a man you knew to be a burglar?  
 Witness—Oh, your honor, he was so quiet in the house.  
 When men look reminiscent while you are telling your story they are arranging the one they are going to tell when yours is ended.  
 Power means responsibility.

**Olympic Clockwork**  
 Thirty Swiss "split second" watches costing some \$6,000 were used to insure accurate timing in all 1932 Olympic races. In addition to which a moving picture camera stop watch combination was used for the first time.

**The Parade**  
 "Do you enjoy a parade?"  
 "Immensely," answered Senator Sorghum. "All that the crowd expects to hear is the band, and nobody would be so silly as to try to heckle the music."

**To Enjoy Idling**  
 It is impossible to enjoy idling thoroughly unless one has plenty of work to do.—Jerome.  
 On the money of the United States there is no picture of a woman. Is that equality?  
 A politician isn't trying to make the world as it ought to be; he is satisfied to work in it as it is.

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