

## Webster and the South Carolina Doctrine

**A**MONG the names of the world's illustrious men, the records of whose lives are transmitted to us in history and in biographical sketches, that of Daniel Webster holds a most eminent place. This remarkable man, born and brought up in the backwoods of New Hampshire, stands as the most distinguished American statesman and orator. When we consider his humble origin, the place of his birth, and the innumerable disadvantages he labored under, we cannot fail to admire him, and find his life and character a most interesting and instructive study. The first thought that comes to our minds is, how did he rise to such greatness? To answer this question fully would necessitate a sketch of his whole life, but a few remarks will give us an idea. As a student he was a success: as a lawyer he was without an equal in his day; as a writer he exhibited genius and talent; as a citizen his patriotic principles were an example for all true Americans; and lastly, as a statesman and orator he was superior to any other that America has yet produced. His successes in all these spheres, enough to satisfy the ambition of any man, were all outshone by one oration, the memory of which time will never efface. This was his famous speech in reply to Hayne, delivered in the U. S. Senate, January 26th, 1830.

The circumstances of this noted oratorical passage are as follows: On the 29th of December, 1829, a resolution was moved by Mr. Foote, a Senator from Connecticut, involving the question of limiting or extending the survey and sale of public lands. The protracted debate on this resolution was made the means of a rambling discussion of party and sectional differences, and even of personal attacks on the part of the speakers. General Hayne, of South Carolina, one of the debators, in a speech delivered on January 19th, 1830, made a few remarks on the subject under discussion, and then began a series of attacks upon New England, accusing her of being always unfriendly to the South, and of doing everything possible to benefit herself at the latter's expense. Webster, who was considered the most able speaker in the North,