

The Old Merchants of New York City, Vol. 2 (Classic Reprint)

Walter Barrett

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Excerpt from The Old Merchants of New York City, Vol. 2

You were really the first merchant that the author ever met, and it was to you that he was indebted for his first knowledge of the rudiments of commerce, and his early acquaintance with the names and persons of the leading merchants of the period, among whom none ranked higher than yourself

The author also came upon the stage sufficiently early to know that Archibald Gracie, Senior, your venerable father, who, about the period of the passing of the last into the present century, was among the first merchants of this or any other country, - his ships visiting every port of the world. When, in writing in these chapters of "Old Merchants," about the loftiest commercial integrity, spotless private character, the innocence of a child, of grand commercial views bounded only by the latitude and longitude of the globe, the dignified presence, the philosopher in overwhelming misfortune, patience in waiting through long weary years for the wrong to be made right, the venerable white hairs and the soul of goodness, - to write correctly of all, the author had only to recal to memory that same father of yours, whose remains he saw placed in the family vault more than third of acentury ago in St. Thomas churchyard.

What, then, more proper, than that the author should respectfully dedicate this volume to yourself, healing a name doubly honored in mercantile annals?

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