



DANIEL MURRAY.

Mr. Daniel Murray was born in Baltimore, Md., March 3, 1852, and inherited on both sides of his parentage a dominant strain of Scottish blood. He received a good seminary education, supplemented by private instruction in the languages. In January, 1871, he entered the Library of Congress, at Washington, D. C., under the late Ainsworth R. Spofford, who took a fatherly interest in him, and who aided him in every possible manner. Mr. Spofford made him his personal assistant and taught him methods of research which had given Mr. Spofford world-wide reputation. This made it necessary for Mr. Murray to study the modern languages. Being thus equipped and having learned the sources of information and the most approved methods of seeking the same, he spent nearly all of his time in the service of the Library of Congress seeking answers for Congressional inquirers. In this way he came across a vast deal of material of transcendent importance to the colored race, and determined to make the effort to gather it together, confident in the racial patriotism to assist in giving it to the world. Wendell Phillips justly held "that he who knew the source of information might truly be said to have the key to the book of knowledge."

From the very first Mr. Murray designed compiling a Cyclopaedia during the years of his life time, and of leaving the same as his legacy to the colored race, his sons to take up the work of publication. Hence, for more than fifteen years he has pursued with unremitting diligence, his self-imposed task, but, owing to the urgent importuning of friends, has decided to undertake its publication now.

Mr. Spofford was a man of strong anti-slavery convictions and singularly free from the blight of color prejudice, and he gave cordial encouragement to Mr. Murray's scheme. He helped him by suggestion and by direct assistance, but never let an opportunity go by to have included in his prospective work everything the vast Library of Congress contained in his line and thus the work grew.

Mr. Murray's Encyclopaedia embraces the civilized world and seeks to cover the period beginning with Hagar (the mother of Ishmael) down to the present time. Haiti, San Domingo, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Mauritius, Antigua, Brazil, Bermuda, Trinidad, Barbadoes, Jamaica and all the islands of that region, are covered as never before in a compact form. Biographical sketches of all of the men and women who have been conspicuous in Liberia's history. Cuba and South America have been thoroughly treated, and every man of distinction in every part of the world allied to the colored race noted and fully investigated. Several thousand names, constantly met with in ancient and modern history, and whose identity with the colored race is known only to those who have traced them, are now classified; this classification being easy of arrangement in an Encyclopaedia such as this.