



South Carolina Fire-Eater: The Life of Laurence Massillon Keitt, 1824-1864 (Hardback)

By Holt Merchant

University of South Carolina Press, United States, 2014. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. South Carolina Fire-Eater is the first book-length biography of Laurence Massillon Keitt, one of South Carolina s most notorious advocates of secession and apologists for African American slavery. A politician who wanted to be a statesman, a Hotspur who wanted to be a distinguished military leader, Keitt was a U. S. congressman in the 1850s, signed the Ordinance of Secession, and represented his rebellious state in the Confederate Congress in 1861. Through this thoroughly researched volume, Holt Merchant offers a comprehensive history of an important South Carolina figure. As a congressman, Keitt was responsible for no legislation of any significance, but he was in the midst of every southern crusade to assert its rights: to make Kansas a slave state, to annex Cuba, and to enact a territorial slave code. In a generation of politicians famous for fiery rhetoric, Keitt was among the most provocative southerners. His speeches in Congress and on the stump vituperated Black Republicans and were filled with references to medieval knight errantry, lance couched, helmet on, visor down, and threats to split the Federal temple from turret to foundation...



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