INTRODUCTION

The reader should understand that no attempt has been made to interpret, color, or embellish anything that occurred during James Clifford Veatch's lifetime; and no attempt has been made to describe his character or personality. This biography is based entirely upon personal letters received or written by James, official documents and manuscripts, newspaper articles at the time or shortly after the events occurred, and histories of the time in which he lived.

The reason for such a stringent approach to writing this biography was, in fact, dictated by James Clifford Veatch. In going through his personal papers, I came upon a letter which he wrote on October 19, 1881. James had been asked to comment on an amended report of the Battle of Shiloh, in which Colonel Peter J. Sullivan described Sullivan's actions in the battle. James' response, after reviewing the amended report, was rather long and involved; but in his conclusion he observed:

"But history is often made after the event transpired and colored to suit the views and vanity of the actions."*

Consequently, with this cautionary note always in mind, this writer has declined to take any literary license in dealing with the material upon which this biography is based. Therefore, it stands solely on the facts, as James would have preferred.

* James Clifford Veatch, personal papers, folder Feb.-Dec. 1881, Indiana Historical Society Library.