



James Louis Petigru: Southern Conservative, Southern Dissenter

By Jane H. Pease

University of South Carolina Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 254 pages. Dimensions: 9.2in. x 6.1in. x 0.7in. In the three decades before the Civil War, James Louis Petigru became the dean of the South Carolina bar and Charleston's leading exponent of the constitutional conservatism that placed federal union above state rights, the economic views that underlay Whig politics, and the liberal vision of individual rights enshrined in the Bill of Rights. In the only modern biography of Petigru, William H. and Jane H. Pease trace the rise to social and professional preeminence that not only placed him among South Carolina's elite but also gave him national visibility. In doing so, they explore the workings of the extended family he headed, the politics of the state he loved, and the intricacies of the legal system he mastered. Central to Petigru's life was the ambiguity into which his competing loyalties plunged him. Loyal to his native state, he was a vocal opponent of its political values. Despite his dissent on the critical issues of nullification and secession, Petigru was elected attorney general, served as a state representative, and codified the state's laws. Born in South Carolina's upcountry to a family of Scots-Irish...



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