



Sentiment and Celebrity: Nathaniel Parker Willis and the Trials of Literary Fame

Thomas N. Baker

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

Sentiment and Celebrity: Nathaniel Parker Willis and the Trials of Literary Fame

Thomas N. Baker

Sentiment and Celebrity: Nathaniel Parker Willis and the Trials of Literary Fame Thomas N. Baker

How did the stately, republican literary world of Washington Irving and James Fenimore Cooper give way to the sensationalist, personality-saturated mass market society of the late nineteenth century? In answering this question, *Sentiment and Celebrity* tells the story of a man the *New York Times* once called "the most talked-about author in America." A widely admired, if controversial, master of the sentimental appeal, poet and "magazinish" Nathaniel Parker Willis (1806-1867) was a pioneer in the modern business of celebrity. In his heyday, he knew both popularity and success as few other American writers had. Willis, who became the gossip-dishing darling of the middle class and whose sister was the popular writer Fanny Fern (of *Ruth Hall* fame), was a shrewdly self-styled man of letters who attained international fame by publicizing the renowned figures of the day, including himself, and by playing to, or playing upon, the sentimental desires of his readers. By the 1840s, he could count himself among the nation's highest paid writers and most influential arbiters of fashion and feeling (especially with genteel women), though he could also describe himself, accurately enough, as one of the "best abused" literary men of his generation. With fame and self-promotion came unexpected, perhaps unforeseeable, burdens, and scandal followed eventually.

By charting the various controversies that surrounded Willis, this book shows how the cultural and commercial impulses that fostered antebellum America's new love of fame and fashion drew sustenance from the concurrent allure of genteel cultivation and sentiment. Still, perennial tensions between desires for privacy and the invasive impulses of publicity, and between desires for sincerity and the appeal of social and commercial artifice, rendered this cultural conjunction highly unstable. Readers of Willis were both attracted to and disturbed by his written work and his very person; he introduced new possibilities for fashion, taste, and celebrity, and these new modes of thought and emotion were at once enchanting and unsettling. Because this cultural instability and the impulses that spawned it cut across a number of discourses, and because, in many ways, this double-edged quality remains central to our modern celebrity culture, *Sentiment and Celebrity* will appeal to students and scholars of several disciplines, among them literary studies, women's studies, sociocultural history, and communication studies.

As Thomas N. Baker demonstrates in these fascinating pages, not only does Willis's story enrich our understanding of the early history of celebrity and the development of this country's literary marketplace in the years before the Civil War, it also shows how the cultural phenomena of sentiment and celebrity have gone hand in hand since their inception. Given the countless ways in which fame (literary or otherwise) continues to pervade (and pervert) the American Dream, Baker's book is a "life and times" study that speaks directly to our own lives.

 [Download Sentiment and Celebrity: Nathaniel Parker Willis a ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Sentiment and Celebrity: Nathaniel Parker Willis ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Sentiment and Celebrity: Nathaniel Parker Willis and the Trials of Literary Fame Thomas N. Baker

From reader reviews:

Raymond Childers:

As people who live in often the modest era should be upgrade about what going on or data even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era which can be always change and advance. Some of you maybe may update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know which you should start with. This Sentiment and Celebrity: Nathaniel Parker Willis and the Trials of Literary Fame is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and need in this era.

Douglas Dossett:

The feeling that you get from Sentiment and Celebrity: Nathaniel Parker Willis and the Trials of Literary Fame is the more deep you searching the information that hide within the words the more you get interested in reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to be aware of but Sentiment and Celebrity: Nathaniel Parker Willis and the Trials of Literary Fame giving you joy feeling of reading. The copy writer conveys their point in selected way that can be understood through anyone who read it because the author of this guide is well-known enough. This book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. Therefore it is easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We propose you for having this particular Sentiment and Celebrity: Nathaniel Parker Willis and the Trials of Literary Fame instantly.

Mary Bolinger:

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the coastal world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try point that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition details. Even you love Sentiment and Celebrity: Nathaniel Parker Willis and the Trials of Literary Fame, it is possible to enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout people. What? Still don't buy it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

Robert Caldwell:

Would you one of the book lovers? If yes, do you ever feeling doubt if you are in the book store? Attempt to pick one book that you never know the inside because don't ascertain book by its protect may doesn't work here is difficult job because you are scared that the inside maybe not since fantastic as in the outside search likes. Maybe you answer is usually Sentiment and Celebrity: Nathaniel Parker Willis and the Trials of Literary Fame why because the great cover that make you consider about the content will not disappoint you actually. The inside or content is usually fantastic as the outside or even cover. Your reading 6th sense will directly assist you to pick up this book.

**Download and Read Online Sentiment and Celebrity: Nathaniel
Parker Willis and the Trials of Literary Fame Thomas N. Baker
#Z1LQUCHTYGJ**

Read Sentiment and Celebrity: Nathaniel Parker Willis and the Trials of Literary Fame by Thomas N. Baker for online ebook

Sentiment and Celebrity: Nathaniel Parker Willis and the Trials of Literary Fame by Thomas N. Baker Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Sentiment and Celebrity: Nathaniel Parker Willis and the Trials of Literary Fame by Thomas N. Baker books to read online.

Online Sentiment and Celebrity: Nathaniel Parker Willis and the Trials of Literary Fame by Thomas N. Baker ebook PDF download

Sentiment and Celebrity: Nathaniel Parker Willis and the Trials of Literary Fame by Thomas N. Baker Doc

Sentiment and Celebrity: Nathaniel Parker Willis and the Trials of Literary Fame by Thomas N. Baker Mobipocket

Sentiment and Celebrity: Nathaniel Parker Willis and the Trials of Literary Fame by Thomas N. Baker EPub