



The Caning: The Assault That Drove America to Civil War

By Stephen Puleo

Westholme Publishing, U.S. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, The Caning: The Assault That Drove America to Civil War, Stephen Puleo, Early in the afternoon of May 22, 1856, ardent pro-slavery Congressman Preston S. Brooks of South Carolina strode into the United States Senate Chamber in Washington D.C. and began beating renowned anti-slavery Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts with a gutta-percha walking cane. Brooks struck again and again - more than thirty times across Sumner's head, face, and shoulders - until his cane splintered into pieces and the helpless Massachusetts senator lay unconscious, covered in blood, and having nearly wrenched his desk from its fixed base. It was a retaliatory attack. Forty-eight hours earlier, Sumner had concluded a speech on the Senate floor that had spanned two days, during which he vilified Southern slave-owners for violence occurring in Kansas, called Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois a "noise-some, squat, and nameless animal," and famously charged Brooks's second cousin, South Carolina Senator Andrew Butler, as having "a mistress who ugly to others, is always lovely to him. I mean, the harlot, Slavery." Brooks not only shattered his cane during the beating, but also destroyed any pretense of civility between North and South - a...



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