

WHAT WILSON DID AT PARIS

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What Wilson Did at Paris by Ray Stannard Baker

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RAY STANNARD BAKER

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BY
RAY STANNARD BAKER



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TO
THREE HELPFUL FRIENDS AT PARIS

IDA M. TARBELL
WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE
AUGUST F. JACCACI

PREFACE

A public man is best exhibited at the critical and decisive moments of his life, when all his forces are engaged to the uttermost. As one looks back along the troubled history of the Peace Conference at Paris there appear clearly five crises, five decisive battles. Each one of them centred upon some point in President Wilson's leadership and arose directly out of the clash between the President's principles and ideals with the interests of other nations or groups of nations.

This small book makes no pretense at giving anything like a complete account of what happened at the Peace Conference: its sole purpose is to present some interpretive glimpses of the President in action, describe the most important battles he fought there, and the kind of foes he had to meet. The President himself can tell what he thinks and hopes—there is no man in the world to-day who is a greater master in the expression of ideas and ideals—but he has no genius for telling what he does. For this reason, Americans have not fully understood the real problems their Pres-

ident had to face at Paris, nor recognized the real victories he won. They do not see the forces that broke him down: caused the desperate illness from which he suffered so recently at Washington. It is hoped that these brief chapters may contribute to a clearer understanding of what the President did at Paris.

Amherst, Massachusetts.

November 1, 1919.

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