

**AMERICAN
NEUTRALITY, ITS
CAUSE AND CURE**

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American Neutrality, Its Cause and Cure by James Mark Baldwin

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BY

JAMES MARK BALDWIN

Ph.D., HON. D.Sc., HON. LL.D.

FORMERLY PROFESSOR IN TORONTO, PRINCETON, AND JOHNS
HOPKINS UNIVERSITIES, AND THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF
MEXICO; HERBERT SPENCER LECTURER (1913-16) AT OXFORD
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PREFACE TO THE FRENCH EDITION

THE conditions under which these lectures have been prepared are so special that a word explaining them may not be considered out of place.

The subject was one assigned to me* as being of interest just at present to audiences of university people in the provincial cities of France. I felt that an opportunity was offered to point out to the French not only the real feeling of the American people toward them and their cause, but also to explain to them the internal conditions which hinder

* Assigned, that is, by the Paris Committee of the Harvard Foundation, for which the lectures were written. In view of the circumstances created by the war, it has been decided to publish and circulate the lectures in this form, instead of delivering them in the Provincial Universities.

PREFACE

the free expression of the American national conscience and will in this great crisis. This has been my object.

I speak as a loyal American citizen telling the truth as he sees it. If this seems to reflect upon the present American Government, it should be remembered that it is only upon the existing government—which every good citizen has not only the right but the duty to hold to account—not upon the Nation nor upon the institutions which the office-holders of the moment happen to administer. This has been one of the great lessons of the war : the reality of the distinction between a people and its government. Greece and Bulgaria come at once to mind. The French Republican Constitution has been criticized, in view of the place without authority it assigns to the President. Events show that the American Constitution is open to the opposite criticism, that it reposes in the President an authority in some respects too great. Such an authority may on occasion fail to make itself felt in the direction in which the true sentiment of the nation would express itself.

PREFACE

May one say fully—it may be asked—what one thinks, when abroad ?

The distinction between what one may say at home and what it is proper to say abroad possesses, in this day of the cable and the interviewer, no longer any relevancy. Mr. Roosevelt and President Eliot speak to London, Paris, and Berlin as well as to New York and Cambridge ; there is no reason in this that they should not speak. The same is true *mutatis mutandis* of those who speak in Paris or London.

The subject of these lectures is of such actuality that it is impossible as yet to make statements fully documented with statistics and citation of texts. For this reason, no less than that of lack of time, I have avoided topics open to dispute and omitted statements requiring exact statistics. Apart from the theoretical interpretations, which are my own, the historical and other positive statements made are, I believe, only those to which competent students of American affairs would generally subscribe.

J. M. B.

PARIS, February, 1916.

