

SOCIETY'S MISFITS

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Society's misfits by Madeleine Z. Doty

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BY
MADELEINE Z. DOTY

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PHOTOGRAPHS*



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TO THE
LIBRARY OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF
MICHIGAN

NOTE AND DEDICATION

It is my pleasant duty to thank the good friends who have made this book possible. If it had not been for the ready assistance of Mr. Thomas Mott Osborne, I should not have secured permission to spend my voluntary days in prison, nor without his example should I perhaps have had the courage to undertake the adventure. Also to my companion in misery, Elizabeth Watson, who elected to try prison life with me, do I owe much, and to my friend Dorothy Osborne, whose sympathy, quick understanding, and devoted service to prison reform have made her a valuable ally in securing the material set forth in this book.

To *The Century* and *Good Housekeeping* thanks are due for permission to reprint the papers originally published in their pages.

And last but not least do I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the men and women confined in Auburn and Sing Sing prisons who have laid bare their hearts with reckless generosity and given of their all in order to throw light on the prison problem and improve conditions for all men, women, and children confined behind bars. To them I dedicate this book.

July 3, 1916, Sparta, New Jersey.

INTRODUCTION

BY THOMAS MOTT OSBORNE

“Oh that mine enemy would write a book,” was the cry of the ancient teacher, thirsting to become a literary critic.

“Blessed is he that hath nothing to say and cannot be induced to say it” is the cry of the modern critic, reflecting upon the good old times before “best-sellers” dropped in a continuous stream from our over-worked presses.

The conclusion is obvious: in these days no one should write a book who can possibly help it.

This book is one of those which the author could not help writing; the facts she has learned must be told. Whether or not the book needs an introduction is a different matter; but Miss Doty has asked me to write one and as it happens that I have some knowledge of the events and persons described, it may not come amiss for me to bear witness to the truths that she has written.

The first of the following chapters gives the experience of Miss Doty when she and her friend, Miss Watson, spent a brief period as inmates of the New York State Prison for Women at Auburn. I had the privilege of arranging with the warden for their reception and I was “our host gazing