THE MANY-SIDED ROOSEVELT; AN ANECDOTAL BIOGRAPHY

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The many-sided Roosevelt; an anecdotal biography by George William Douglas

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GEORGE WILLIAM DOUGLAS

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AN ANECDOTAL BIOGRAPHY

BY

GEORGE WILLIAM DOUGLAS

It is only through labour and painful effort, by grim energy and resolute courage, that we move on to better things.— THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

NEW YORK DODD, MEAD AND COMPANY 1907

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

MR. ROOSEVELT is the kind of man about whom myths grow up. Even now there is a tendency to idealise him, illustrated by the remark of a discriminating lady to whom this book was read in manuscript. When I came to an instance of the Presidents unconventional way of doing things she said:

"I would not put that in."

"Why not?" I asked.

"Because I don't like to think that the man who is President of the United States ever did things that way."

"Why not," I persisted, "if that is the way he did things?"

"Oh, I know he is just like that," she explained, "but I don't think I'd leave that in. I don't like it."

Unless a record of the true man is made, here

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and now, while we know what manner of man he is, those who come after will know only the ideal Roosevelt; and in a hundred years or so the men in the libraries will be rummaging over the documents to discover what sort of a man the "real Roosevelt" was. The intimate contemporary history which is now making in newspapers and magazines and in the gossip of acquaintances is recorded, when recorded at all, in such a perishable manner that it will have crumbled into dust by the time the historian would give all he is worth to get hold of it.

If this book has any excuse it lies in a desire to preserve a portrait of the real man, the man whom his contemporaries know, and to show him as he behaves every day. It may be charged that it is a flattering portrait, as little notice has been taken of the criticisms of partisan opponents or of the unpleasant tales told by them. These have been deliberately omitted, for it was not my purpose to perpetuate animosities. Some of the things

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recorded may seem trivial, but they all have value in creating the picture. It is the multitude of brush marks, none of them significant in itself, that makes a portrait on canvas. I am persuaded that such a contemporary portrait as is here presented will be useful to those alive to-day, and will be of inestimable interest to those who come after. It is only fair to say that Mr. Roosevelt himself is in no way responsible for what appears, save as he has done the things which observers have noted.

The book has grown out of the material which I began to gather several years ago for my own information. As it accumulated, it occurred to me that if the multitude of incidents and remarks and impressions could be properly arranged they would make such a picture of the man as could be obtained in no other way. My task has been little more than that of an editor who arranges the matter at his hand. I have attempted to classify it in such a way as to make, so far as possible, a connected narrative; but from the nature of the case the reviii

sult is not what it would have been had I attempted to do more than work a series of anecdotes into a mosaic of narrative. Those who wish more complete information concerning Mr. Roosevelt's views of the great public questions with the settlement of which he is connected will find it in his published addresses and messages. The wisdom of his policies, as they must be tested by time, is a matter for future historians to discuss.

I have been at considerable pains to verify the tales that have been told and have had correspondence or personal interviews with those acquainted with the facts in nearly every case. Among those to whom my thanks are due for their assistance in this respect are General Charles F. Manderson, Senator Henry Heitfeld, H. H. Kohlsatt, Esq., Judge Alton B. Parker, Baron Speck von Sternburg, the Honourable St. Clair McKelway, the Honourable S. N. D. North, the Honourable Rockwood Hoar, the Honourable Timothy L. Woodruff, Justin McCarthy, Jr., Esq., Sena-