

**THE GREATER
TRAGEDY, AND
OTHER THINGS**

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The greater tragedy, and other things by Benjamin Apthorp Gould

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BENJAMIN APTHORP GOULD

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The Greater Tragedy

And Other Things

By

Benjamin Apthorp Gould



UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA

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PREFACE

MANY of us believe that this year of 1916 is the most important year in the history of the United States. The nation to-day is an adult; it has gone successfully through the dangers of its formative period and growth; it has taken its place as an important member of the society of nations. The war-turmoil of the times makes it impossible for us longer to delay making choice of the direction of our future development, and upon our decision rests not only our future conditions at home but our position in the world.

It is now for us to say whether we choose service or sloth; whether we take our possible place in the promotion of the human race, or content ourselves with enjoying our inheritance while we may; whether we elect the part of the worker or of the drone. We

can do, or we can enjoy. We can use our strength to assume responsibility, or we can take the easy profits which the times afford and spend them on luxury. We can devote ourselves to ennobling the soul of our nation or to pampering its body.

It would now be futile to argue that as a people we do not know the rights and wrongs of the war or the necessity for our physical safety that militant autocracy be overthrown. Every day brings added proof that the sporadic instances of pro-Germanism in America are either the result of ignorant stupidity or a return for German cash cunningly spent in fomenting dissension among us. If any American picks up this book and questions on which side lie both the interests and the duty of the United States, let him throw it aside. I am not writing for fools.

The elections of 1916 are to demonstrate whether my country has lost its soul. The Wilson Administration has from the beginning of the war stood for national selfishness. It has shirked service, it has dodged danger,

it has sought money and chances to make more money. Its phrases of high purpose have been shown to be a diarrhea of empty words.

If anything in this book shall help a single American to realize these facts and to make his choice in support of the ideals which inspired our ancestors and against the gross selfishness which is our present danger, I shall feel that it has not been written in vain.

B. A. G.

February, 1916.

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