

**THE GREATEST FACT
IN MODERN
HISTORY; PP. 1-38**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649272457

The Greatest Fact in Modern History; pp. 1-38 by Whitelaw Reid

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The Greatest Fact
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New York

Thomas Y. Crowell & Co.

Publishers

1907

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Published January, 1907

Composition and electrotype plates by
D. B. Updike, The Merrymount Press, Boston

Publishers' Note

THE following paper was prepared at the invitation of Cambridge University by the American Ambassador to Great Britain and delivered in the Senate House as the opening address in the course on the Eighteenth Century for the summer meeting of 1906. The University authorities named the subject. The Ambassador said at the time he never should have chosen it for that audience, but when it was chosen for him he was unwilling to run away from it. The Vice-chancellor presided and introduced him, and at the close the Bishop of Ely moved and the Mayor of Cambridge seconded a vote of thanks, which was unanimously carried.

270591

The Greatest Fact In Modern History

I AM asked to speak to you on the greatest fact in modern history, the rise and development of the United States.

Neither George Canning nor his King called this New World into being, and it was not called into being by anybody for the purpose of redressing the balance of the Old. As to its most significant, and, for a long time, its leading settlements, it was called into being by Charles I., when he pursued Separatists, non-Conformists, and others, in the professed interest of the Church of England. Its growth was checked by the rise of Oliver Cromwell; and while the Protectorate lasted the Puritan emigration ceased. Charles II. revived it, and he and his brother James, by their treatment of the Puritans in England, and the Covenanters in Scotland, did more than any other human power to make New England and other large sections of the United States what they are.