

**THE GREAT DECEPTION,
BRINGING INTO THE LIGHT THE
REAL MEANING AND MANDATE
OF
THE HARDING VOTE AS TO PEACE**

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The great deception, bringing into the light the real meaning and mandate of the Harding vote as to peace by Samuel Colcord

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BY
SAMUEL COLCORD

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THE GREAT DECEPTION

CHAPTER I.

FINDING OUR BEARINGS.

I WILL put my foreword in a chapter of the book where it will be likely to be read and will do the most good.

The word "deception" in the title is used in this volume only in rare instances in its strictest sense, as implying deliberate purpose to deceive. The misleading of many minds in the case we are about to present may be compared to one of nature's deceptions, as when a stroller in unexplored fields, perhaps not far from his own home, sees in miasmatic clouds in the lowlands a stretch of beautiful water bestudded with islands while mountain shores rise beyond, and is ready to aver that he has looked upon one of the most enchanting scenes to be found in any landscape, only to look an hour later when the mists have cleared, to be surprised to learn that the actual scene is very different, presenting no islands and no water.

Had the stroller returned to his own side of the mountain without taking that later look, he would

very innocently have entertained his neighbors with the story of an enrapturing scene just beyond, of which they had never heard or dreamed, to be hailed by some as a most fortunate wanderer while others who knew would accuse him of baseless fabrication.

A strange combination of much cloud and some real land, aided in the minds of some by a great desire and much expectation that it might be so, has tricked many of our citizens into a great and very injurious misconception of the meaning of the election result and turned them into innocent and thoroughly earnest deceivers of others.

It is true of some of the most zealous and successful of these deceivers that they are possessed of a powerful and not disinterested motive to propagate the deception of which they have been more than willing victims, since in a certain way they and their cause receive large benefits from it. But I will not here charge them with malignant or deliberate purpose to deceive.

It is also true that the first implanting of that deception came in part, through a strange commingling of sincerity and hidden motive which had in it some of the elements of deception in the strict sense of the word, as will appear in one of our chapters.

In these limited senses, and in some rare instances in the stricter sense that of which I am to write is indeed *the great deception*, and the title is justified by more than literary license.

It is to drive away the deceiving mists that obscure

the real landscape that the following pages have been written.

Is there in the minds of many citizens and of many statesmen of both the greater political divisions, and particularly in the minds of the politicians, a very grave misinterpretation of the meaning of the phenomenal vote which made Senator Harding President—a misinterpretation that is liable to affect seriously if not disastrously the action of the government upon the question of world union for peace, and which communicated from one to another has come to be in effect, though not in general with intention, a great deception which is befogging the political atmosphere of the land?

Many believe that there is—and that there is great need as well as promise for some one to present the easily discerned facts that should correct that misinterpretation in any reasonable and unbiased mind.

Accepting that pleasant and really delightful task, I am sure of having interested readers, for not only the average citizen but much more our statesmen and more than any others our politicians, if by any chance they may have acquired a wrong conception of the meaning of that vote, should wish to be put right. Since it is not a question of opinion but of fact and it is of very great importance that the statesmen know, while it is the very life of the politician to know what the people are thinking and much more what they believe, may I not hope that they as well as the non-political citizen, will listen to me long enough to learn if I am presenting anything