

**WOODROW
WILSON AND NEW
JERSEY MADE OVER**

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Woodrow Wilson and New Jersey made over by Hester E. Hosford

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HESTER E. HOSFORD

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AND

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By

HESTER E. HOSFORD



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NEW YORK

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Dedicated

TO THE MEMORY OF

MY STAND-PAT ANCESTORS

WHOSE SINCERITY I REVERE AND HONOR

BUT WHOSE POLITICAL TEACHINGS

I AM UNABLE TO ACCEPT

PREFACE

I AM aware that it is considered the proper thing for an author to preface his or her work with an apology, but I have never been able to understand why one should write a book and then apologize for having written it, since I know of no compulsory process whereby an author may compel any one to read his work.

Instead of making an apology I prefer to make a request. If any reader, especially an ex-political boss, chances to glance his eye over these pages, and then decides that I deserve to meet a violent death, will he kindly remember that I prefer to be suspended from a hickory limb? Candidly, I do not believe that I am worthy of the honor of being burned at the stake. Such special distinctions were intended, evidently, for Joan of Arc and her disciples, for whom I have the greatest reverence; but perish the thought,—that I should ever aspire to their social caste!

I am fully conscious that I am lacking in the essentials of a militant reformer. I have merely been interested, for a few years, in the game of politics, as it has been, and is now being, played. I have jotted down a few thoughts, here and there,—now and then, chiefly for the purpose of giving to myself a little mental discipline, and, incidentally a little practice in telling historical truth.

“To tell the truth simply, openly, without reservation, is the unimpeachable first principle of all right dealing;

and historians have no license to be quit of it. Unquestionably they must tell us the truth, or else get themselves enrolled among a very undesirable class of persons, not often frankly named in polite society. But the thing is by no means so easy as it looks. The truth of history is a very complex and very occult matter. It consists of things which are invisible as well as of things which are visible. . . .

“How shall a writer take the palate of his reader unawares, and get the unpalatable facts down his throat along with the palatable?”

Long before Woodrow Wilson was talked of as a prospective Governor or a possible President, I came across an essay written by him, which contained the expressions here quoted. Remembrance of them filled me with timidity when I thought of writing an account of the recent regeneration of public affairs in New Jersey.

But it occurred to me that those who read books dealing with political history understand, in some degree, the difficulties which a writer on these subjects must experience. This dispelled some of my fears lest I get myself “enrolled among a very undesirable class of persons.”

Accordingly, I set to work to properly instruct myself, in order that I might tell the story of “Woodrow Wilson and New Jersey Made Over,” with the hope that possibly the achievements of those who have been instrumental in securing progressive legislation in New Jersey may furnish an inspiration to other reformers.

If my efforts shall lead any one to a broader knowledge of the career and unselfish purposes of Woodrow Wilson, I shall be doubly repaid for the labors which I have performed.

May I add that whatever may be said in these pages

concerning the machine system of government and private management of public affairs, it is hoped that no one will believe that the author's purpose is to deepen the gulf of animosity between the "special interests" and "the people"?

Every one in this progressive decade ought to see clearly that whatever permanent improvement is to be made in our political institutions must take root in an honest effort of both the classes and the masses to exchange their points of view. When they can to a greater degree think in each other's terms, the ground will be broken and a fundamental law of co-operation will establish a progress of which we have not yet dreamed.

Laws, no matter how sound, can never do this. They can only help to set the pace. In the end the voluntary enforcement of the law by all classes, because they *love justice*, will elevate our standards of life as nothing else can. There is even a remote possibility that there will come a time when our social organization will rise above the necessity of all statutes, except the "Higher Law."

Many public-spirited citizens, in New Jersey and elsewhere, are entitled both to my gratitude and condolences for the assistance which they have rendered me in the preparation of this work.

I am especially indebted to the *New York Sun*, whose frequent effusions have been a constant source of stimulation and encouragement to me while I have been occupied in this delightful task.

H. E. H.

ORANGE, NEW JERSEY,
February 17, 1912.