

**THROUGH COLLEGE ON  
NOTHING A YEAR,  
LITERALLY RECORDED  
FROM A STUDENT'S STORY**

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Through college on nothing a year, literally recorded from a student's story by Christian Gauss

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**CHRISTIAN GAUSS**

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BY  
CHRISTIAN GAUSS

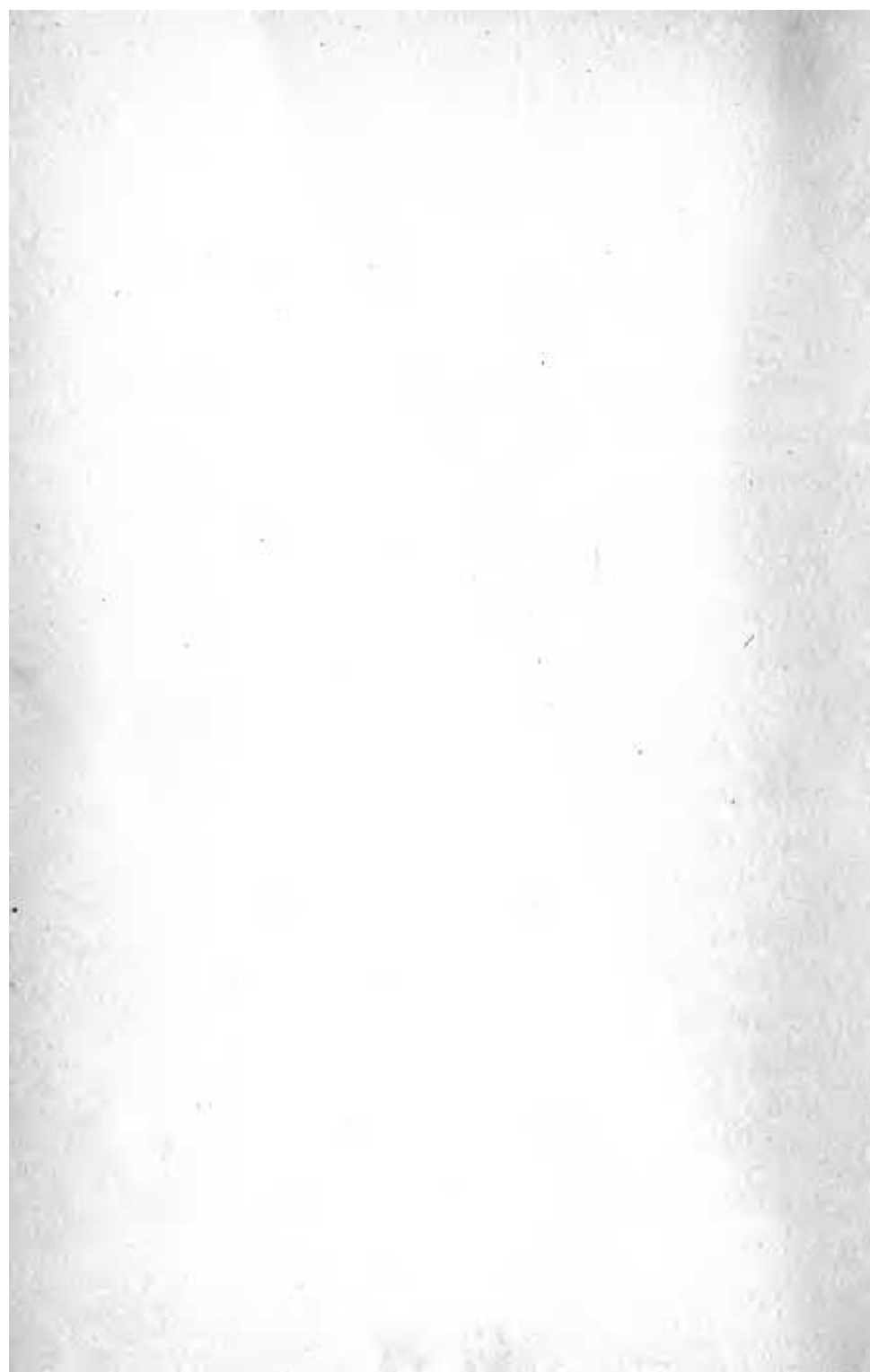
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CALIFORNIA

NEW YORK  
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1915

1175

A POOR RETURN FOR SERVICE RICHLY GIVEN, THIS  
PLAIN ACCOUNT OF LIFE AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY  
IS DEDICATED BY BOTH THE SPEAKER AND HIS  
SCRIBE TO THAT LOYAL SON OF HIS *ALMA MATER*,  
GEORGE MCFARLANE GALT, IN RECOGNITION





## PREFACE

THE reader of this volume is cavedropping on what we hope will prove to be for him an interesting and profitable story of real life. And this brief preface is designed to apprise him more fully of his privileges and status.

The informality of the following narrative will in all probability be a sufficient indication that the experiences here so frankly revealed were not in the first instance intended for any larger public, or for a public at all. Such is indeed the case. Had I at that time intimated to the very busy and matter-of-fact young man here concerned that he was to become the "hero" of a printed book, I feel sure that in spite of old acquaintance he would have looked upon me askance and have avoided my questions with suspicion. Of any such fate he had, for these times, a somewhat unusually healthy horror. I feel it my duty, therefore, to remove this seeming curse

which, as a result of unforeseen circumstances I have in a sort brought upon him; for it should be understood at the outset that the story is now presented with the narrator's as well as the writer's sanction.

A whole school of philosophers holds that there can be no changes in our world which are not somehow known or experienced by the human mind and soul. Man, they tell us, is the measure of all things. This problem, in deference, we must leave with them. It will be plain even to the lay mind, however, that conditions in colleges cannot change, or even exist, without affecting the lives of individual students, and as a result of this embarrassing fact, which a philosopher might have foreseen but which we did not, what began as an impersonal investigation of conditions has become this frankly personal narrative and confession.

A university publication had planned a series of articles on the opportunities offered to and the methods employed by that increasing number of students who are earning their way through college. In gathering the facts for such an investi-

gation I naturally turned to students so situated, and in particular to the young man of our story, for he was well known to me personally and had at this time nearly finished his college course with no assistance from outside. With him I had a number of most informal conferences on nearly all the phases of this problem, and he very willingly told me of his own ventures and experiences, believing that he could thus be of assistance to others who were or would later be in a position like his own; for many of his difficulties were due, as his story will show, to ignorance of conditions which he was called upon to face, and which he indicated and explained. Unknown and with no prospect of financial assistance, he had, as the result of a boyish determination, suddenly found himself upon a college campus, where, in an utterly strange world, like the man from Mars, he for some time had the sense of being an interloper in a stranger's house. He labored under yet other handicaps particularly severe, which even an American lad of foreign parentage, born in the slums, would not be called upon to face. These he never discussed but ac-