

**WOODROW
WILSON, THE
STORY OF HIS LIFE**

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Woodrow Wilson, the story of his life by William Bayard Hale

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BY

WILLIAM BAYARD HALE

Author of

"A Week in the White House with Theodore Roosevelt"



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CHAPTER I

BACKGROUND AND BOYHOOD

IT WAS four years more than a century ago that a restless youth of twenty, to whose ears had come amazing stories of the opportunities to be found in a new land, forsook the home of his Scots-Irish fathers in County Down, on the Irish shores of the windy North Channel, and sailed forth toward the baths of the Western stars. Perhaps he had heard of the fame of a Scotsman of his own name and without doubt his own kin who, having migrated to America only a generation before, had become one of the founders of the new nation, one of the signers of its Declaration of Independence, a member of its Constitutional Convention, and a Justice of its first Supreme Court. At all events, it

was on a ship bound for the city of Justice James Wilson that young James Wilson sailed.

The later emigrant may have been destined to no such eminence as was the earlier, yet young James, too, found his opportunity in the new country — found it in a little shop full of the smell of printer's ink and mysterious with the apparatus of the preservative art — the shop at 15 Franklin Court, formerly the home of Benjamin Franklin, whence issued, to the enlightenment of the good people of Philadelphia, William Duane's daily paper, the *Aurora*.

To their enlightenment, it is to be hoped; certainly very much to their entertainment and their agitation — and not only theirs, but the whole country's as well. William Duane was the earliest muck-raker in American journalism; indeed, he was muck-raking on the other side of the world before he had a chance to employ Bunyan's celebrated tool here. Though born on the shores of Lake Champlain, Duane was educated in Ireland, whence he went out to India and started a newspaper much occupied with arraigning the British Government —

which the Government very sensibly seized and whose editor they ordered out of the country. Returning to Great Britain, he became parliamentary reporter to London papers, including the *Times*. So he was pretty well equipped to make trouble when, in 1795, he came back to the country of his birth and engaged himself with Franklin Bache (grandson of the most famous of all Philadelphia printers, and son of Richard Bache, the Postmaster-General) on the *Aurora*. Bache dying of the yellow fever, Duane took over the widow — and the *Aurora*.

It was already a leading Democratic journal, Philadelphia being then the national capital. Duane made it the chief organ of the party. His were the shrieking methods of the yellowest day journalism has ever seen, and within a year he had been haled before Congress for a violation of the Sedition Law. However, he did a great deal toward electing Jefferson to the Presidency and putting the Democrats in power, and even after he had turned into a bitter assailant of President Madison and had come to be regarded as an opposition editor, we find

Jefferson writing him (1811), calling him "Colonel" William Duane:

The zeal, the disinterestedness, and the abilities with which you have supported the great principles of our revolution, the persecutions you have suffered, and the firmness and independence with which you have suffered them, constitute too strong a claim on the good wishes of every friend of elective government, to be effaced by a solitary case of difference in opinion.

William Duane never got any political reward, but his son was made Secretary of the Treasury by President Jackson. He served only a few months, refusing to obey Jackson's order to remove the Government deposits from the United States Bank without authority of Congress.

Duane was in financial difficulties most of the time, but he stuck it out until 1822, when the country had settled down into an "era of good feeling" so paradisiacal that there was nothing for a fighting journalist of Irish education to do in the United States. So he closed out the *Aurora* and went on a tour of South America, then in the throes of revolution.