

**IN THE ARENA: STORIES
OF POLITICAL LIFE.
[NEW YORK-1913]**

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In the Arena: Stories of Political Life. [New York-1913] by Booth Tarkington

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BOOTH TARKINGTON

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OF POLITICAL LIFE.
[NEW YORK-1913]**



THE CONVERSION OF THE SENATOR FROM STACKPOLE

IN THE
A R E N A

Stories
of Political
Life

BOOTH
TARKINGTON



ILLUSTRATED BY A. L. KELLER, POWER
O'MALLEY AND J. J. GUILD

GARDEN CITY NEW YORK
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1913

To My Father

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“IN THE FIRST PLACE”

The old-timer, a lean, retired pantaloon, sitting with loosely slippers feet close to the fire, thus gave of his wisdom to the questioning student:

“Looking back upon it all, what we most need ‘in politics’ is more good men. Thousands of good men ARE in; and they need the others who are not in. More would come if they knew how MUCH they are needed. The dilettantes of the clubs who have so easily abused me, for instance, all my life, for being a ward-worker, these and those other reformers who write papers about national corruption when they don’t know how their own wards are swung, probably aren’t so useful as they might be. The exquisite who says that politics is ‘too dirty a business for a gentleman to meddle with’ is like the woman who lived in the parlour and complained