

A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649250783

A Voyage of Discovery by Nicholas Murray Butler

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER

**A VOYAGE
OF DISCOVERY**

Clive

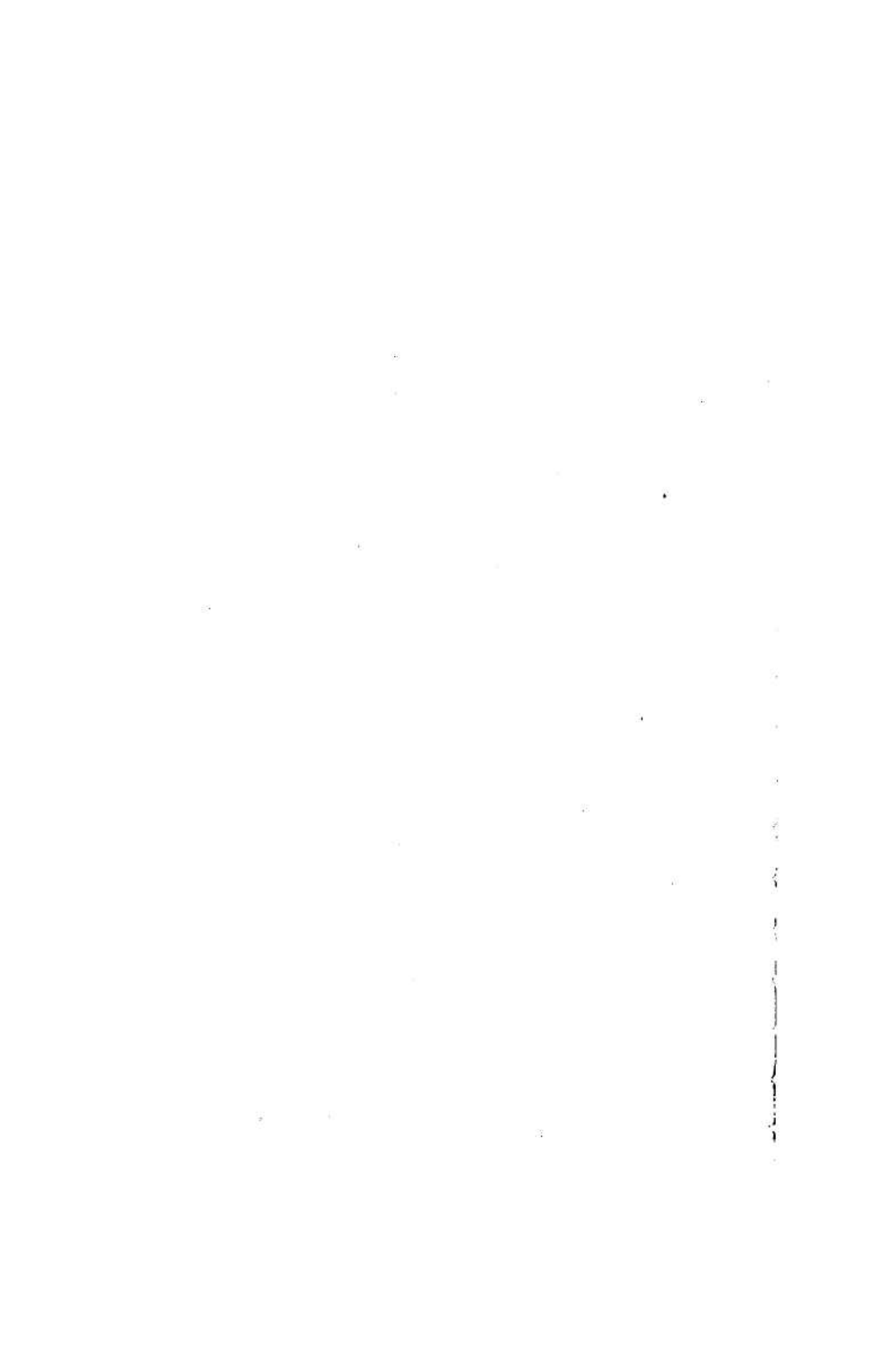
E. 4625.17

A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY

BY
NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER

REPRINTED BY PERMISSION FROM
SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE
JUNE, 1916

NEW YORK
1916



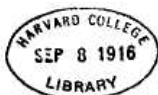
A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS
AT NEW YORK
DECEMBER 9, 1915

REPRINTED BY PERMISSION FROM
SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE
JUNE, 1916

NEW YORK
1916

Educ 4625.19



Gratis
Butler, Nicholas Murray.



A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY

BY NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER

WHEN, in 1807, the philosopher Hegel published his *Phänomenologie des Geistes*—a work which seems to me one of the most noteworthy in all the literature of philosophy—he referred to it as a voyage of discovery. He gave the work this inviting name because in it he undertook to trace the history of consciousness in its growth from the first stages of culture up to those theoretical and practical convictions which underlie modern civilization and constitute its basis and foundation. I am using the term in an analogous but far less ambitious sense. What I have in mind is to state as simply and as directly as I can, and as correctly as may be possible after the passage of thirty years, the impressions and reflections of a young American, who, like so many others of his day, took ship a generation ago to seek instruction and inspiration at the universities of a foreign land.

So rapidly have our American universities progressed during the past generation that it is only with some effort that we can think ourselves back and reconstruct the academic life, organization, and methods of thirty years ago. At that time a visiting European would have been able to discover no universities whatever in the United

A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY

States. He would have found Mr. Eliot in the midst of his severe task at Cambridge, reorganizing Harvard College and its attendant professional schools, giving new ideas to their governing boards, leading in the reconstruction of their programmes of study, and exerting a wide influence on the thought and policies of academic teachers in all parts of the United States. He would have found Doctor McCosh growing old at Princeton, but full of zeal and abounding in vision, and so stirring the imagination and appealing to the ambition of a group of young students that he created by his own efforts an exceptionally talented company of productive scholars, though few in number. He would have found a small Columbia College in the City of New York, with President Barnard calling aloud for the means with which to make progress and to seize the opportunity that he saw so clearly, while here and there a younger scholar was planning plans and dreaming dreams of what might some day be brought about on that ancient foundation. He would have seen vigorous intellectual life at Philadelphia, at New Haven, at Ithaca, at Ann Arbor, at Madison, at Berkeley, and at Charlottesville, but at no one of them would he have found a university. On reaching Baltimore he would have opened his eyes a little wider. For here, still young and still taking on form, was the promise of a real university. Here had been brought together by the genius of President Gil-

A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY

man a company of really advanced scholars and a small group of really inspiring and productive university teachers. Everything was being subordinated to the university ideals of inquiry, of productive scholarship, and of publication. The beginnings were yet small but they were highly promising.

The fact that these were the conditions then existing in the United States was one of the reasons why the more ambitious and energetic of those American college graduates of that day who looked forward to scholarship as a career, hastened across the Atlantic as soon as means could be found, to Oxford and to Paris, to Berlin and to Vienna, to Leipzig and to Göttingen. To come under the influence of a European university, particularly of a German university, was then the height of academic ambition.

For half a century the German universities had been drawing to their libraries, lecture-rooms, and laboratories an increasing number of American youth. These had been received with great hospitality, and they had repaid the welcome tendered to them by assiduous study and by grateful recollection and appreciation of one, two, or three years of scholarly companionship, intellectual stimulus, and careful discipline. As the young American of the scholarly type reached the close of his college course, or perhaps after he had passed a year or two in so-called graduate studies at his alma mater,