

**IN OUR FIRST YEAR OF WAR;
MESSAGES AND ADDRESSES TO
THE CONGRESS AND THE PEOPLE,
MARCH 5, 1917, TO JANUARY 8,
1918**

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In our first year of war; messages and addresses to the Congress and the people, March 5, 1917, to January 8, 1918 by Woodrow Wilson

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WOODROW WILSON

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IN OUR FIRST YEAR OF WAR

MESSAGES AND ADDRESSES TO
THE CONGRESS AND THE PEOPLE
MARCH 5, 1917, TO APRIL 6, 1918

BY
WOODROW WILSON
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

NEW AND ENLARGED EDITION

Frontispiece from drawing by
WILFRID MUIR EVANS



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INTRODUCTION TO NEW AND ENLARGED EDITION

It is gratifying in a sense which is higher than purely practical considerations to record the immediate welcome given to this volume. This has led to a new edition at a very early date. It has been possible to take advantage of this and to add two addresses, "Four Basic Peace Principles," the address to the Congress of February 11, 1918, and "Force, Force to the Utmost," the address delivered at Baltimore on the opening of the Third Liberty Loan Campaign, April 6, 1918. The present volume, therefore, contains all the important addresses of the first year of our righteous war for liberty.

On April 14th the *New York Sun* in its interesting Book Section presented a remarkable symposium offering the opinions of distinguished men and women of letters as to "The new book that interested me most."

With his customary felicity of phrase, that incisive and brilliant essayist and novelist,

INTRODUCTION

Meredith Nicholson, uttered his decision in these words:

To name the best book of a given period is a serious matter. In these iron years imaginative literature is bound to suffer. There have been good novels in the past twelve months, but none that may be classed with the books of all time. There have been good poems, but no single poem has sprung to the front rank. There have been admirable essays, but this department has not been greatly enriched by the addition of volumes that will carry far into the future. And we are making history, not writing it.

Great novels and great verse interpreting these clanging times must wait a little. In scanning the shelf of newest books for a candidate for immortality my eye falls upon one volume that will, I believe, outlive every other book of the past year. Its literary merit is the highest; it is addressed to the minds and the consciences not only of the American people but of every civilized man and woman on the globe.

There is no savage in the utmost island of the farthest sea but is in some manner affected by the book that lies open before me. Here we have in every sense a piece of world literature, the production, under the most trying circumstances, of an American scholar, patriot, and statesman. Here we have democracy interpreted for all the children of men, and between the covers of this book there are phrases that are already indelibly written "in the very alphabet of memory."

The book I refer to is *In Our First Year of War* (Harpers), a volume of messages and addresses to the American Congress and the people, and the author is Woodrow Wilson, sometime president of Princeton University and now, by the grace of God, President of the United States.

FOREWORD

THIS book opens with the second inaugural address and contains the President's messages and addresses since the United States was forced to take up arms against Germany. These pages may be said to picture not only official phases of the great crisis, but also the highest significance of liberty and democracy and the reactions of President and people to the great developments of the times. The second Inaugural Address with its sense of solemn responsibility serves as a prophecy as well as prelude to the declaration of war and the message to the people which followed so soon.

The extracts from the Conscription Proclamation, the messages on Conservation and the Fixing of Prices, the Appeal to Business Interests, the Address to the Federation of Labor and the Railroad messages present the solid every-day realities and the vast responsibilities of war-time as they affect every American. These are concrete messages which should be at hand for frequent reference, just as the uplift and inspiration of lofty