

**PRINCETON FOR THE NATION'S SERVICE:  
AN ADDRESS DELIVERED ON THE  
OCCASION OF HIS INAUGURATION AS  
PRESIDENT OF PRINCETON UNIVERSITY  
ON OCTOBER TWENTY-FIFTH, MCMII**

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Princeton for the nation's service: an address delivered on the occasion of his inauguration as president of Princeton university on October twenty-fifth, MCMII by Woodrow Wilson

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**WOODROW WILSON**

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BY  
WOODROW WILSON  
PH.D., LITT.D., LL.D.



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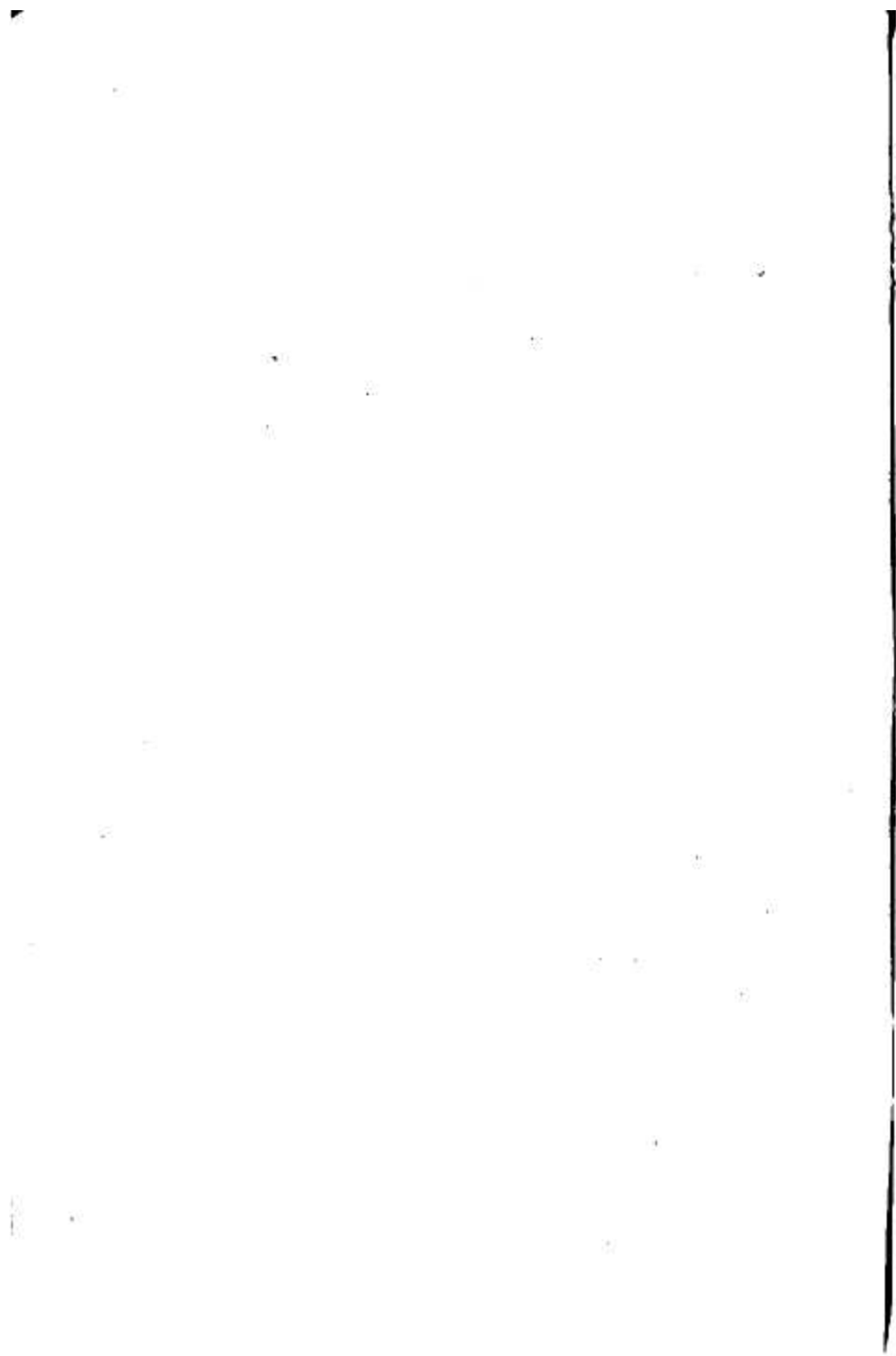
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*PRINCETON  
FOR THE NATION'S  
SERVICE*

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INAUGURAL  
ADDRESS



PRINCETON  
FOR THE NATION'S  
SERVICE

SIX years ago I had the honor of standing in this place to speak of the memories with which Princeton men heartened themselves as they looked back a century and a half to the founding of their college. To-day my task is more difficult, more delicate. Standing here in the light of those older days, we must now assess our present purposes and powers and sketch the creed by which we shall be willing to live in the days to come. We are but men of a single generation in the long life of an institution which will still be young when we are dead, but while we live her life is in us. What we conceive she conceives.

### *Princeton for the Nation's Service*

In planning for Princeton, moreover, we are planning for the country. The service of institutions of learning is not private but public. It is plain what the nation needs as its affairs grow more and more complex and its interests begin to touch the ends of the earth. It needs efficient and enlightened men. The universities of the country must take part in supplying them.

✓ American universities serve a free nation whose progress, whose power, whose prosperity, whose happiness, whose integrity depend upon individual initiative and the sound sense and equipment of the rank and file. Their history, moreover, has set them apart to a character and service of their own. They are not mere seminaries of scholars. They never can be. Most of them, the greatest of them and the most distinguished, were first of all great colleges before they became universities; and their task is two-fold: the production of a great body of informed and thoughtful men and the production of a small body of trained