

**THE CROWNING: A
PLAY IN
FOUR ACTS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649264971

The Crowning: A Play in Four Acts by William Wiley Scott

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

WILLIAM WILEY SCOTT

**THE CROWNING: A
PLAY IN
FOUR ACTS**

American Dramatists Series

THE CROWNING

A PLAY IN FOUR ACTS

BY

WILLIAM WILEY SCOTT



BOSTON
THE GORHAM PRESS
MCMXVIII

MVR

Copyright, 1919, by William W. Scott

—
All Rights Reserved

PS 3537
C935C8

Made in the United States of America

—
The Gorham Press, Boston, U.S.A.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The soul of man was never created. It has an existence without a beginning, is indestructible, and will exist forever. Its dwelling abode, the body, alone was created. The soul of man was dwelling in the realms of Peace before it entered this abode.

Peace sues in the temporal courts for her right to rule the soul of man, basing her title upon pre-temporal sovereignty.

All war has its inception in an unscrupulous few agitating public opinion. Peace alleges, in the Court of Public Opinion, that the soul of man is her subject, was pure and peaceful when it entered the world, and that she has a right to set up her kingdom here and rule over it. She is opposed at court by Greed and others, who deny her authority. She further alleges that the soul is peaceable in its originality, but its nature is contaminated by temporal affairs and is thus set at strife.

In the trial court Reason incurs the displeasure of the Court, and is thrown into prison and Peace loses her suit.

Though placed in chains, Peace, at the second term of court, renews her suit.

At this time Lie comes into the Court of Public Opinion and demands war, stating the country is threatened by an enemy. Greed demands the head of Reason and war is declared.

Thus is shown the great danger of the hasty decisions of the Court of Public Opinion.

Here is where "Honest Toil" gets a hand in war. He knows little or nothing of the issues, but meekly says "I obey"—and obeys. He calls the sons of Toil together and sets them to killing each other.

So long as Toil is willing to have his sons kill each other there will be war. Human nature cannot be changed. Build a thousand Hagues and fill them with a thousand theories and you will yet have the same old Jealousy and the same old Greed among pampered rulers of nations, who want to even up old scores and forcibly take that which belongs to another, and as long as Toil will do the fighting there will be war.

In Toil, and in Toil alone, rests the solution of war. When Honest Toil wakes up to the full realization of this horror of horrors, wakes up to the fact that he is but the tool of Greed and Jealousy, he will stamp out war and stamp it out forever.

"The Crowning's" effort is to show the toilers their position in war, and to help them take a stand on the side of Peace.

Ninety per cent of the earth's peoples are toilers. While yet of different lands and different tongues, they are toilers just the same. In the toiler lies all power. When he will have put his seal of disapproval upon war it will be a thing of history, and the world will be at peace. For this and other great purposes Honest Toil is fast mustering his sons under one united banner. During the last twenty-five years there has been a greater growth

of unionism than in all the previous history of mankind. This but points to the time which must come within the next quarter of a century, when it will be as impossible for any nation to start war as it would be for it to grapple the planets from the firmament. Why? Because Honest Toil will have broken the chains from the hands of Peace and seated her upon the throne of the human heat.

AUTHOR.

THE PLOT

ACT I

Peace sues in the Court of Public Opinion for the right to rule man.

Her suit is opposed by *Greed* and others.

Peace brings up as her witnesses *Love*, *Mercy*, *Honor* and *Reason*.

Greed brings to his aid *Avarice*, *Jealousy*, *Slander* and *Lie*.

Peace loses her suit and is ordered placed in chains by the Court.

Reason criticises the Court of Public Opinion and is ordered thrown into a dungeon with the sentence of death over his head.

ACT II

Peace renews her suit in the Court of Public Opinion.

She is again opposed by the same parties,—*Greed* and others.

Greed's counsel sways the Court against *Peace*, and the Court grants an application for war.

Reason is beheaded, and the Court declares war over his bleeding head.

Honest Toil is ordered to gather his sons and proceed to battle.