

**THE PRESENT
MILITARY SITUATION
IN THE UNITED STATES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649519972

The Present Military Situation in the United States by Francis Vinton Greene

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BY

FRANCIS VINTON GREENE

GRADUATE OF WEST POINT; MAJOR-GENERAL U. S. V.

NEW YORK
CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

1915

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Published February, 1915

THE UNIVERSITY
OF CHICAGO PRESS



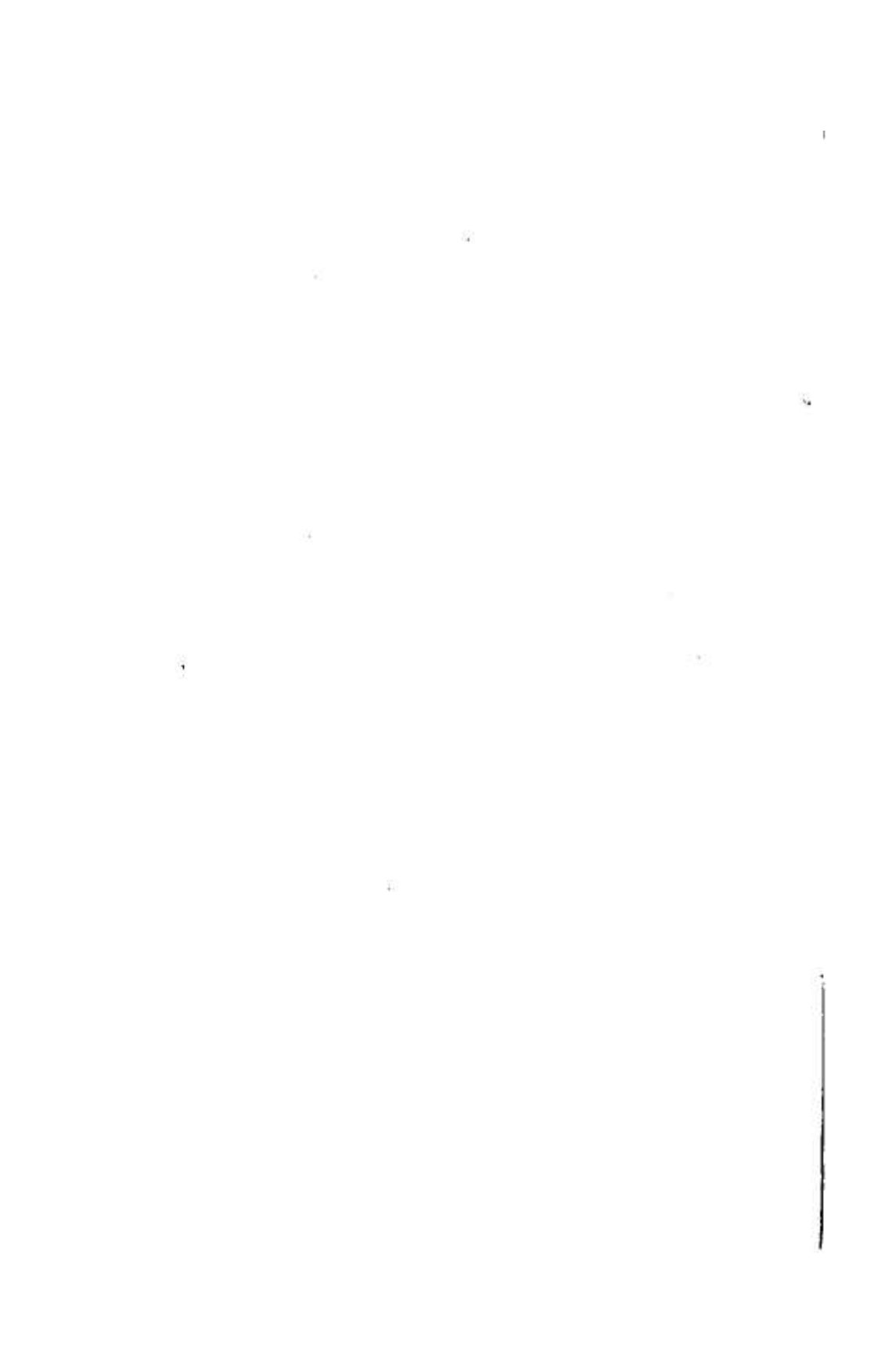
PREFACE

THE following pages are, substantially, a reprint of an address recently delivered in Portland, Maine, at the request of the Economic Club of that city.

I hope that they may, in some small degree, help to persuade the civilians, the voters, the "plain people" of Lincoln, the lovers of peace and all its infinite benefits, to give calm but thoughtful consideration to this question of adequate national defense. It is eminently worthy of their consideration.

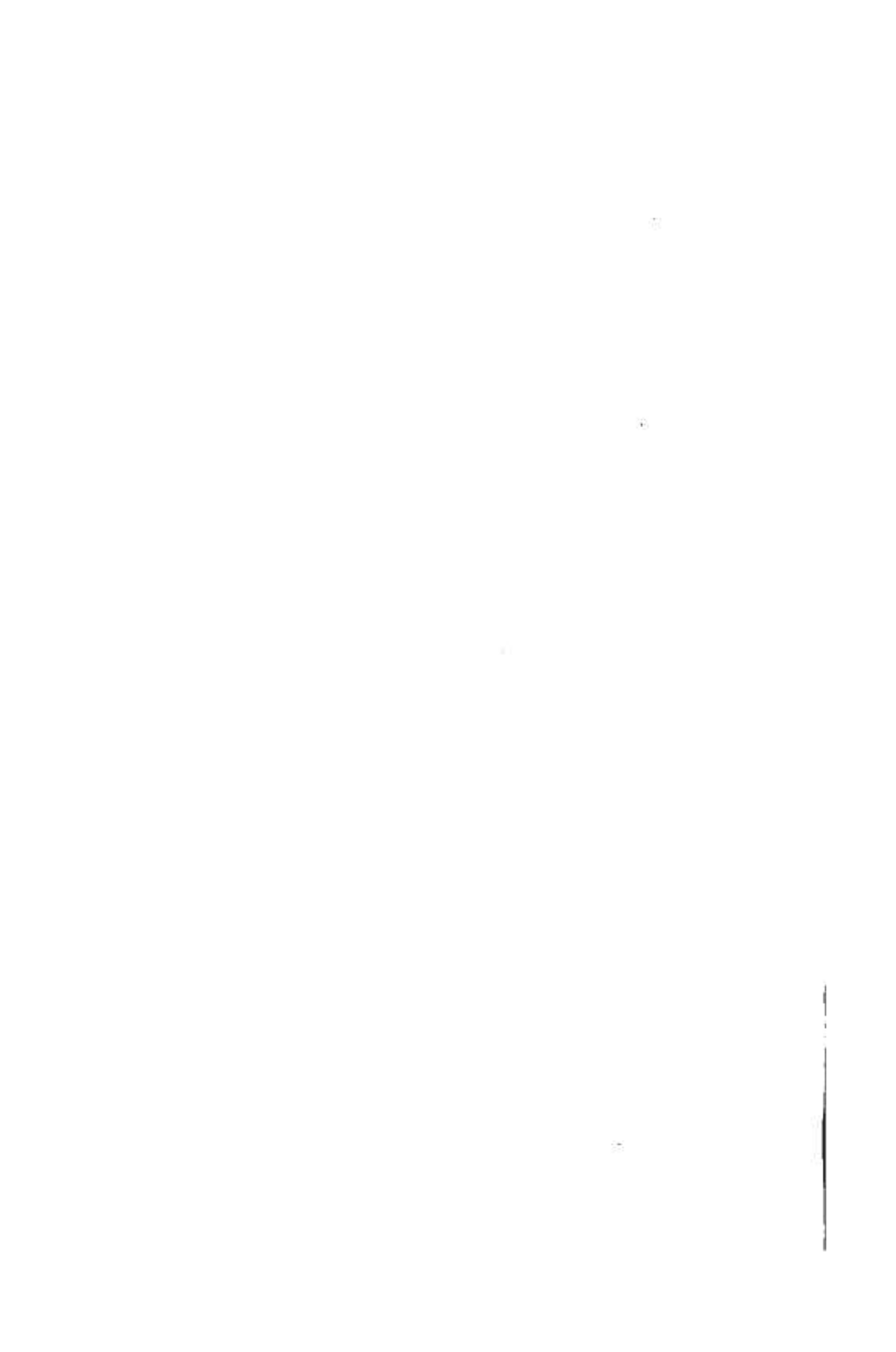
FRANCIS V. GREENE.

BUFFALO, February 1, 1915.



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THE PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION IN THE UNITED STATES

I feel somewhat diffident in speaking in such distinguished company, and I should hesitate to appear with them,* but for the fact that all my life I have studied—and at times written upon—the important subject which is under discussion to-night; and, I may frankly say, have never accomplished anything by anything I have ever written upon it. I am not alone in that. The most distinguished soldiers we have ever had—General Sherman in particular—have written to the same effect, but without producing the slightest impression upon the minds of their countrymen. In 1876, more than a generation ago, General Sherman was chairman of a commission appointed by

* The other speakers were Lieutenant-General Nelson A. Miles, U. S. Army, and Professor John Graham Brooks, of Harvard; one of them the only survivor of the leading generals in the Civil War and of the great Indian-fighters of 1865-1890, and the other, one of the most profound economic students of the day.