

was the case, naturally, with his speech accepting his nomination for the Presidency. That he wrote out.

Before he had been graduated, an important magazine had accepted an article written by him. This was a discussion of the relative merits of the congressional system under which our government is conducted, and the other parliamentary system, in general vogue elsewhere, under which the Cabinet is responsible to the Legislature, and must stand or fall according as its programme is accepted or rejected in public debate on the floor of the national assembly. In this article, the young Princeton student made the first accurate analysis and description of the way in which Congress has come actually to conduct its business, namely: through committees, which practically work in secret. The point of the article is the assertion that the nation's business ought to be done in public, ought to be threshed out in public discussion. It was thirty-three years ago, but here was a student crying out that secrecy was the atmosphere in which all corruption and evil flourished; that Congress ought to legislate at every stage as if in the presence of the whole country. Publicity, publicity at every point—there was the only safeguard for the people's rights and the country's best interests.

After graduation at Princeton, Woodrow Wilson went to the University of Virginia, that great institution of liberal learning organized by Thomas Jefferson. Here he spent a year studying in the law department under the singularly able guidance of Dr. John B. Minor. At Charlottesville also Wilson was an acknowledged leader among his class-mates. He joined the glee club; he was active in sports; he organized a debating society; he walked off with the Writer's Prize and the Orator's Prize. His remarkable personal popularity, however, was due not so much to his gifts, as to his companionability, his unselfishness and his love for fun. The young fellow was a great joker, a composer of nonsense verse and limericks and was always ready for a bit of skylarking. Indeed, at every one of the colleges which Woodrow Wilson attended, the most persistent memory of his sojourn commemorates his love of fun. Everywhere he seems to have had little ambition to stand especially well in his regular studies, although he worked hard storing his mind with every fact he could get hold of bearing on the science of government, perfecting his writing style, and gaining readiness in debate.

#### A BRIEFLESS LAWYER

The natural path into public life in the United States has generally been through the profession of law. Accordingly, Wilson prepared to practice law. He selected Atlanta as a promising city; went there, found another young hopeful in a case precisely like his own; formed a partnership for the purpose of purchasing a sign, "Renick & Wilson," and sat down in a room on the second floor of 48 Marietta street to wait for clients.

That never came. Atlanta was already well supplied with lawyers whom the citizens knew and to whom they were related.

The lack of professional business was not the cause of any particular grief to the junior member of Renick & Wilson. He was too busy at something else—a book. The idea of which his International Review essay was the germ was growing bigger in his mind every day, and he was occupied in expanding the article into a volume. He lacked, at Atlanta, the facilities for historical investigation needed to fill out his work, and, realizing that his heart was still bent on the direct and immediate subject of government and that the path to a political career through the law would be long and tedious, Wilson resolved to cut out all idea of practicing the legal profession and to go where he could master all that could be learned of the science of politics.

So, in the autumn of 1883 a new student matriculated at Johns Hopkins University and entered on work in history and political economy under the direction of the late Herbert B. Adams and Dr. Richard T. Ely.

It would be impossible to describe the two years Wilson now spent in enthusiastic labors at Johns Hopkins, but it would be equally impossible to exaggerate the importance of these years on his mind and character. He was associated with a small group of students, every one of whom has since attained high distinction in the world of political scholarship or of practical public wisdom. Never before had there been undertaken in the United States such thorough-going study of the problems of government. James Bryce, who as a foreigner was studying our politics and writing his famous book, "The American Commonwealth," found his most valuable aid in the work of the young men

at Johns Hopkins—particularly in that Woodrow Wilson, to whose original researches he acknowledged his particular obligations. It was the peculiarity of the Johns Hopkins workers that they were after facts; they were willing to spend infinite pains to get facts; they were far less concerned about the theory of a thing than they were anxious to find out how it actually worked in practice. Wilson's chief job was to get at the real facts as to how the legislative department of the United States government actually worked—not what the theory of it was or was supposed to be, but how, as a matter of fact, it did work. Early in 1885, Wilson completed that job. He had made a book, and now it was published: "Congressional Government: A Study of Government by Committee." It was the first account ever given of the way Americans actually do govern themselves.

The book met with instant success. It was immediately recognized as a final, standard piece of work. To-day, 27 years later, it remains un superseded.

#### A TEACHER AT BRYN MAWR

That summer, Woodrow Wilson married, at Savannah, Miss Ellen Louise Axson, daughter of a line of Georgia clergymen. He had been called to a chair in a new school for women, Bryn Mawr College, and for three years taught history and political economy there. The next two years he spent as professor of the same subjects at Wesleyan University—a non-sectarian college, in spite of its name—at Middletown, Conn. During these years, too, he acted as a lecturer on the Johns Hopkins faculty. While at Middletown, Mr. Wilson published a second book, "The State," displaying a simply prodigious knowledge of the history and principles of governments from the earliest times down to the latest.

In 1890, the chair of jurisprudence and politics at Princeton falling vacant, the Trustees very naturally elected to it their old graduate who had so quickly made himself a foremost reputation as a student of politics.

September, 1890, found Woodrow Wilson again domiciled in the Jersey collegiate town which, fifteen years before, he had first gazed 'round upon with the eyes of a student from the South. He was now a man whose renown had begun to spread in the world, an author, a public speaker of enviable repute, the head of a family, a figure of consideration.

The new professor stepped at once into the front rank, and instantly became popular, the attendance mounted until it surpassed that ever before or since given any course of study at Princeton; before long very nearly four hundred students, almost the total number of juniors and seniors combined were taking Wilson's courses. Widely informed, marked by a mastery of fact even to slight detail, inspiring in their range and sweep, and spiced with a pervading sense of humor, Professor Wilson's lectures were further marked by the great freedom with which he delivered himself of his views on current events.

During the twelve years, 1890 to 1902, Mr. Wilson continued to fulfill at Princeton the duties of professor of jurisprudence and politics. They were twelve years of study, yet pleasant labor; years of growth and of growing influence, both in the University and in the country.

In 1902 Woodrow Wilson was elected President of Princeton University.

The time had come for a change; the old college faced new conditions and realized that it needed a new leader. It had one already in its faculty, and, quite naturally and simply, it put the direction of affairs officially into his hands. Henceforth, Doctor Wilson was to be not only its most brilliant orator, its most famous writer; he was to be its administrator.

The college prospered from the day of his inauguration. Students multiplied; bequests and donations increased; great buildings went up; a period of unprecedented material success was ushered in.

But the new President was not satisfied with material success. He set himself from the start, to lift the tone and scholarship of the school—or, as he liked to put it, to give the students more for their four years, to help them to be stronger men and better citizens.

This University is remarkable for the degree to which clubs flourish among its two upper classes. Membership is sought after eagerly from the day of entrance. All through the freshmen and sophomore years, every man is anxiously scheming to be one of the fortunate ones admitted to a club. When he becomes a Junior, he learns his fate. More than half are shut out. Some of these leave college.

President Wilson made up his mind that the system was undemocratic and destructive of everything that an American University ought to stand for and inculcate. Yet he did not attack the clubs; he came, in 1907, with a proposal to substi-