

Books for Young People



"The Cat Who Thought
He Was a Tiger."

BOOKS make ideal Christmas gifts for children. They are gay and colorful, they last long after many toys are smashed to bits, and they establish in the child's thinking the importance of the ownership of books. By careful selection of books as gifts year after year a fine collection will be built up for the child, and he will develop a feeling for books of his own. Selection should always be based on a knowledge of the child—his reading abilities and interests—and of books, old and new, that would be appropriate for him.

Reviewers for this issue: Augusta Baker, Storytelling Specialist, Children's Services, The New York Public Library; Helen Fuller, Supervisor, Work with Boys and Girls, Long Beach (California) Public Library; Leone F. Garvey, Supervisor, Boys and Girls Department, Berkeley (California) Public Library, and Lecturer, School of Librarianship, University of California; Sarah Jones, Chief Library Consultant, Georgia State Department of Education; and Norma Rathbun, Chief, Work with Children, Milwaukee (Wisconsin) Public Library.

—FRANCES LANDER SPAIN, *Coordinator, Children's Services, The New York Public Library.*

ROAR AND MORE. By Karla Kuskin. Illustrated by the author. Harper. \$2. The very young should enjoy this simple, often daft, account of the sounds made by eleven creatures. This participation book will lend hilarity to the preschool story hour and much laughter in family reading. The author-artist is well aware of the cast of humor in the youngest, and one should be warned that this could be a very noisy book at times, for the children will want to roar with the lion and thump and thump with the kangaroo. However, purring like the cat and making bubbly sounds like the fish give balance and relief. The illustrations are simple, clear, and clever.

—LEONE GARVEY.

THE CAT WHO THOUGHT HE WAS A TIGER. Written and illustrated by Polly Cameron. Coward-McCann. \$2. Polly Cameron, in her first published book for children, has written a delightful story of a silly little cat who thought he was a tiger because he was different from his brothers and sisters. He would not sleep in the house because he thought tigers slept in trees, nor would he drink milk because he thought tigers ate grass. When he joins the circus and sees a real tiger he finds out, to his delight, that he is a cat after all. The stylized illustrations add charm and interest to the tale.

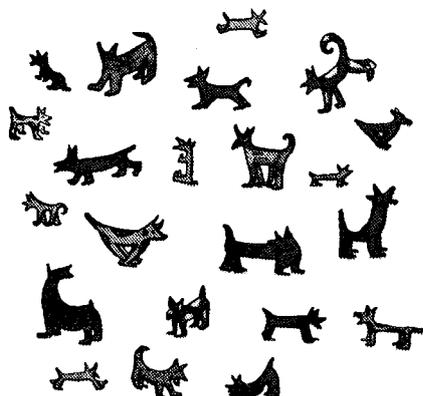
—SARAH JONES.

1-2-3-4-5. Verses by Arthur Gregor. Photographs by Robert Doisneau. Lippincott. \$2.50. Parents will welcome this unique presentation of the number concepts up to twelve. The hand-

some photographs and original marginal illustrations deserve much better verses. Small children will find much to fascinate them in the pictures. Interesting end-papers might have been drawn by the children themselves.

—HELEN FULLER.

BABAR'S FAIR. Written and illustrated by Laurent De Brunhoff. Translated by Merle Haas. Random House. \$3.50. Babar, the lovable elephant, sponsors a big fair in Celesteville in celebration of the anniversary of the founding of the city. The beasts for miles around join enthusiastically in the plans for the fair and come in hordes to the exposition. Pam, Flora, and Alexander explore to their hearts' content the kangaroo booth, the monkey's balcony, and the giraffe's castle. Alexander, the rascal, has an unfortunate experience while he is skin-diving, but is rescued by his new friend, the duck. Devotées of Babar will welcome this



—From "Roar and More."

"... roar ... thump, thump ... purr ..."

new edition to the series. It has all the charm, whimsy, and color of the other Babar books.

—S. J.

SEA LADY. By Julie Forsyth Batchelor. Illustrated by William M. Hutchinson. Harcourt, Brace. \$2.25. Denny, aged eleven, was sure the peddler he met that April day in 1814 was a British spy. Sea Lady, the beautiful figurehead carved by his grandfather, was in grave danger that foggy night the British stole into town and destroyed the shipyards, demonstrating the validity of Denny's suspicion about the spy. Denny proved that "it's bein' brave in your heart that counts!" The drama and excitement of this tale will appeal to fourth- and fifth-graders. The spirited black-and-white drawings are unusually fine.

—H. F.

THE ENCHANTED SCHOOLHOUSE. By Ruth Sawyer. Illustrated by Hugh Troy. Viking. \$2.50. Brian Boru Gallagher of Donegal crossed the sea to visit his Uncle Seumus, recently settled in Lobster Cove, Maine. Brian Boru took with him the family's most precious possession, a brown earthenware teapot, in which he placed a wee fairyman. He took also the memories of his old schoolhouse, shaded by trees, bedecked with flowers, surrounded by a green lawn—so different from the ugly, deteriorated schoolhouse he found in America. He and his fairyman soon turned the little fishing village topsy-turvy but the result was a new schoolhouse. Brian Boru and the wee man returned to Ireland, and Lobster Cove settled down. This is a version of the old Pied Piper theme with a touch of Irish magic. A good Irish story and Ruth Sawyer are synonymous and the book is true to her tradition of leprechauns and "fairy doings." Hugh Troy's illustrations are delightful and they have caught the humor and charm of the story.

—AUGUSTA BAKER.

SWORD OF FRANCISCO. By Charles G. Wilson. Illustrated by Roy Campbell. Thomas Y. Crowell Company. \$2.50. Charlie Morrison, a young Pennsylvanian, renders valuable service to General Washington at Chadd's Ford near Brandywine and meets a new friend, the huge Peter Francisco. Charlie travels with the Army, is accused of being a spy, is imprisoned by the British, escapes, and finally takes part in General Greene's campaign in the South. The unknown background of Peter, the proud owner of a large sword especially commissioned by General Washington, introduces an element of mystery into the story. Libraries seeking additional fiction on the Revolutionary War period will find the book useful.

—S. J.

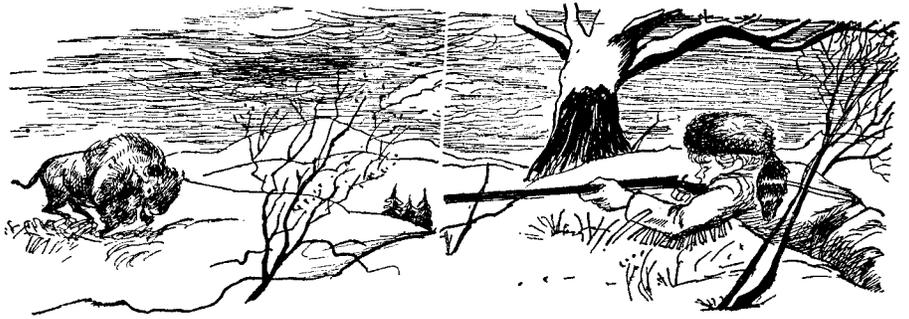
THE PINTO DEER. By Keith Robertson. Illustrated by Isami Kashiwagi. Viking. \$2.50. Summer vacation was a busy time for John Michelson, a time to earn money to return to college. Because he knew every wooded foot of the Sourland Mountain he had two jobs, one to capture a pinto marked deer for a private zoo, the other to assist a botanist in her search for native ferns. Her daughter Billy, an unpredictable eleven-year-old, became, to John's surprise, an engaging companion. Both jobs led to mysterious events: he uncovered the illegal poaching activities of two surly brothers and, unknowingly, helped Billy find her missing grandfather. This second story about John and the Sourland is quite readable, but it is not so well written nor is the plot so well constructed as most of the books written by this popular writer for boys twelve to sixteen. —L. G.

THE LONE HUNT. By William O. Steele. Illustrated by Paul Galdone. Harcourt, Brace. \$2.75. Again William Steele has told an exciting story of a pioneer boy on the Tennessee frontier and his battle with the elements. Yancy was fascinated by his grandfather's tales of buffalo, and when he had an opportunity to hunt the last one in the hills he was determined to get it. This involved almost more than a twelve-year-old could take alone—alone, except for his beloved dog, Blue. The acceptance that Blue had to lose his life in the river while he was driving out the buffalo was part of Yancy's growing-up, and gave him the right to take a responsible place in his family. —F. L. S.

STARS OF FORTUNE. Written and illustrated by Cynthia Harnett. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$3. Cynthia Harnett, 1951 Carnegie Medal Winner for "Nicholas and the Wool-Pack," has used the political intrigue of sixteenth-century England as her background for this historical story. Laurence Washington and his family are involved in

A Book Award

THE Jane Addams Children's Book Award for 1956, given by the Woman's International League for Peace and Freedom to a book which helps children understand other peoples and the problems of today, has just been presented to Arno Bontemps for "Story of the Negro." This book was published first in 1948 by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., and was reissued in 1955 in a new edition. Mr. Bontemps, who has written other books for children, is head librarian at Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee.



—From "The Lone Hut."

"... a pioneer boy on the Tennessee frontier."

the plot to free Princess Elizabeth from her Woodstock prison so that Francis and his young sister, Anne, have exciting and mysterious adventures. This is a well-written, lively, suspenseful story based on fact, and the author has skilfully recreated this period of English history. Her black-and-white illustrations fully interpret the text and a "family tree" shows the relationship of the Washington family to our George Washington. This book, originally published in England, is welcome in its American edition. —A. B.

TRUE LOVE FOR JENNY. By Melbane Holoman Burgwyn. Lippincott, \$2.75. Jenny's fifteenth year is involved not only with the usual teen-age problems— young love and popularity—but, puzzling to her, with estrangement from her mother. When Jenny discovers that it is her grandmother's interference that her mother resents she finds a new interest for her grandmother in the Old People's Home of the town which Jenny's club has taken over for its project. Although the problems attacked by Jenny and her friends seem quite mature for so young a group, the story is convincing, and the book is a happy balance of young love, popularity, and the community project. For teen-age girls. —NORMA RATHEUN.

THE PLUME HUNTERS MYSTERY. By Mary Nickerson Wallace. Illustrated by Jean Porter. McKay. \$2.50. The Florida everglades at the time egret hunting was first prohibited provides an unusual background for this mystery story. Circumstances throw suspicion upon Red Smith as the person who drowned old Klondike, the man with whom he lived. Marion and Bob Adams have been Red's close friends, but recent events have created a rift in the friendship. However, their sincere efforts to understand and help eventually break through Red's aloofness and together the three unravel the mystery. This is better than many mysteries where children solve all the problems singlehanded. Greater skill is shown in constructing a plausible

plot than in writing. It contains a great deal of interesting information about wild life in the everglades. —H. F.

TRAIL BLAZER OF THE SEAS. By Jean Lee Latham. Illustrated by Victor Mays. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.75. This story of Matthew Maury, who during the 1800s was a pioneer in many naval developments. Weather analysis, a naval academy, and the beginning of the plans for laying the Atlantic cable, all were greatly aided by the work of this man with many ideas, for which he worked in spite of much opposition. A well-executed biography, but it lacks the warm and human quality of the author's "Carry on Mr. Bowditch." The illustrations are not as distinguished as those in the first book, and for these two reasons it will meet, rather than create, an interest among readers twelve to sixteen. —N. R.

SOME NATURE BOOKS: A number of small, well-written, and profusely illustrated books on individual animals, birds, and insects have been published in recent months. Each tells clearly and, though briefly, in adequate detail the life cycle, characteristics, foods, and habitat of its subject. All are for the beginner in nature study, easy to read, and attractive in format. Among these books are:

HAWKS. Written and illustrated by Charles L. Ripper. Morrow, \$2.

FROGS AND POLLIWOGS. By Dorothy Childs Hogner. Illustrated by Nils Hogner. Crowell, \$2.50.

FIRE-FLY. By Paul McCutcheon Sears. Illustrated by Glen Rounds. Holiday House, \$2.

HERE COME THE WHALES! By Alice E. Goudey. Pictures by Garry MacKenzie. Scribner, \$2.25.

SPINNING WINGS. By Lucy Gallup. Illustrated by Dimitri Alexandroff. Morrow, \$2.50.

GREEN DARNER. By Robert M. McClung. Illustrated by the author. Morrow, \$2.

CRICKETS. By Olive L. Earle. Illustrated by the author. Morrow, \$2.

—F. L. S.

Woodrow Wilson and 1912

Continued from page 9

ers of Jefferson, there is one principle of Jefferson's which no longer can obtain in the practical politics of America. You know that it was Jefferson who said that the best government is that which does as little governing as possible, which exercises its power as little as possible. That was said in a day when the opportunities of America were so obvious to every man, when every individual was so free to use his powers without let or hindrance, that all that was necessary was that the government should withhold its hand and see to it that every man got an opportunity to act if he would. But that time is past. America is not now, and cannot in the future be, a place for unrestricted individual enterprise. It is true that we have come upon an age of great cooperative industry. It is true that we must act absolutely upon that principle.

WILSON repeatedly contended that Roosevelt's plan for regulation of monopoly called for the delegation of too much power to the proposed trade commission and would result in a government of men. The very vigor with which Roosevelt championed the regulation of corporations and the fact that he did advocate the delegation of considerable power to the regulatory commission made him vulnerable to Wilson's attack. In fact, Wilson's hammering on this point appears to have made such an impression on Roosevelt that during the latter part of the campaign he sought to clarify his position; he put himself very close to the position that Wilson had taken in his New Haven address. At this stage the main difference between the two candidates on the trust question was that Roosevelt was more specific and emphatic in his declaration of intention to have the proposed trade commission given the necessary powers to enforce the new law.

Another thing that has undoubtedly contributed to the notion of Wilson as an enemy of strong Federal government is his well-known distrust of commissions and experts. He went into the campaign with a distinct distrust for governmental commissions. Before very long (probably owing to Brandeis's influence) he admitted the advisability of establishing a commission to regulate competition, being careful, however, to specify that the powers of the commission should be defined precisely by law. Wilson acknowledged that under existing conditions an individual had to have courage to go to the courts and chal-

lenge the power of those in control of industries. Hence he readily admitted that there might be a need for "special tribunals" and "special processes," but he was "absolutely opposed to leaving it to the choice of those tribunals what the processes of law shall be and the means of remedy."

At Sioux City, Iowa, two weeks after Labor Day, Wilson criticized Roosevelt for relying too much on the advice of the Remsen Board in the handling of the pure food problem. A narrow approach to this question, he contended, had resulted in the continued use of benzoate of soda to conceal putrefaction of food. Wilson again expressed his distaste for government experts:

I want to warn the people of this country to beware of commissions of experts. I have lived with experts all my life, and I know that experts don't see anything except what is under their microscope under their eye. They don't perceive what is under their nose. An expert feels in honor bound to confine himself to the particular question which you have asked him.

This belief of Wilson's that each important problem facing the nation should be considered in its totality rather than in dis severed parts was not a new idea to Wilson. As president of Princeton he had insisted that technical training was not enough to cope with the problems of the world. "The managing minds of the world, even the efficient working minds of the world," he asserted in his inaugural address as president of Princeton, "must be equipped for a mastery whose chief characteristic is adaptability, play, and initiative which transcends the bounds of mere technical training." He believed that the "truly educated man" must always be mindful of the "subtle and yet universal connections of things."

But there was more than this behind Wilson's objections to government by experts. He saw in it a threat to what he called "government by discussion," a phrase probably derived from Walter Bagehot. In his address at Clarksburg, West Virginia (October 19, 1912), he drew a con-

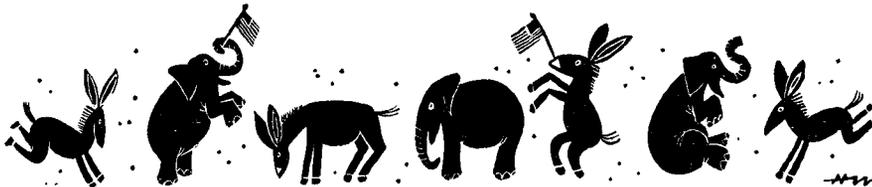
trast between "government by discussion" and "government by control":

I have been trying all day to find some phrase in which to tell you my own impression of what it is that the United States, particularly the most thoughtful people in the United States, desire to see done. The nearest I have come to it is this: that they desire to see discussion supersede control. We have had a government not by public opinion, not by diffused and general public opinion, but by private concert of action. We have had government by control instead of government by discussion, and government by control must always sooner or later fall under just suspicion; whereas government by discussion must always be blown through with a pure air of outdoors and the influences that come from the great bodies of the people itself.

NOW, what about Wilson and social justice in 1912? "The interest of this country," he declared in his speech at the Yorkville Casino in New York City (September 4, 1912), "is founded, in the last analysis, upon its material prosperity and its social justice." He placed material prosperity first, he said, because, "you can't attend to your spiritual interests unless you are at least physically sustained."

Far from savagely attacking Roosevelt's proposals for social-justice legislation, Wilson had words of praise for this part of his opponent's program. Believing that a minimum-wage law would result in a lowering of wages, he did object to Roosevelt's proposal to establish a minimum wage for women, but he did not combat social justice itself. What he did oppose most forcefully, time and again during the campaign, was the placing of the Progressive Republican Party, which he charged with being an ally of big business, in control of a social reform program. This, he said, would not result in the establishment of social justice, which would come only from below, but in paternalism, in justice dispensed from above and willed by the great corporations.

At the Parade Grounds in Minneapolis (September 18, 1912) he discussed at some length the need to conserve the human resources of America, and advocated improvement of working conditions in the factories. He warned that this would come only



after a change in the point of view of government. While denying that the Progressive Republicans should be trusted to carry out a program of social reform, he endorsed most of their aims in these words:

I want to say here, as I have said on so many other occasions, that there is a great deal in the program of the new third party which attracts all public-spirited and hopeful men, that there is a great program of human uplift included in the platform of that party. A man would be niggardly and untrue to himself who would not say that. But when I ask myself who is going to carry out this program, then the thing wears another aspect.

In a speech at Newark, New Jersey (October 29, 1912), Wilson admitted that "one branch of the Republican Party" was making "some very persuasive arguments in favor of social justice." In this connection he made the following comments:

Now, I hope I do not have to say to you that I am in favor of social justice, but I want to know who is going to get it for you and when. Does anybody suppose that either branch of the Republican Party can possibly control the next House of Representatives, plus the next Senate, plus the next Presidency? Doesn't everybody know that the only possible way of uniting those three forces in a common enterprise is to vote the Democratic ticket? If you want social justice, when do you want it? Now, two years from now, four years from now? I tell you solemnly, ladies and gentlemen, we cannot postpone justice any longer in the United States.

LET us now consider Wilson's 1912 speeches as a source of clues as to his personality. For this purpose these extemporaneous utterances are very rewarding. They show that he was no doctrinaire. Although he had certain guiding principles in 1912, he kept his New Freedom program elastic rather than rigid. And his speeches reveal that he was fully aware that his political views had changed considerably within the space of a few years. When Roosevelt and other Republican Progressives quoted some of his 1907 utterances to prove his conversion to progressivism was recent, he made the following reply in his Cleveland speech:

These gentlemen [the Republican Progressives] say that if the Democratic Party gets into power it will follow the old Jeffersonian idea of taking its hands off, that what we need is more power, not

less power. Why, Mr. Roosevelt has had a great deal of amusement expounding what he believes to be my political philosophy. He is going a long journey, and I bid him welcome to that jungle. I am not interested in my political philosophy; I am interested in what he is going to do and in what he is thinking about, and . . . I would invite him to be interested in what I am thinking about and am going to do.

Again, far from the picture of Wilson as the stern, monolithic personality is the extemporaneous humor which crops out again and again in his 1912 campaign speeches. At Union City, Indiana, for instance, he was pressed into making a rear-platform speech. Although this kind of campaigning was not to his taste, he delighted his small audience in the following manner:

I am very much obliged to you for this greeting which I did not expect. I have a rather strong objection to talking from the back platform of a train. I believe that the back platform just now belongs to the Republicans and not to the Democrats. We belong on the front platform. Not only that, but this is the kind of platform that I don't like to stand on. It changes too often. It moves around and shifts its ground too often. I like a platform that stays put.

Also the introductory passages of these speeches often contain rippling humorous passages. At New Haven, after Governor Baldwin of Connecticut had introduced him to an audience in especially glowing terms, Wilson responded in the following manner:

The introduction reminds me by contrast with the remark made to me by a gentleman a good many months ago after I had appeared before a good many audiences. He said that he ventured to say that if I had an opportunity to add a petition to the litany it would be: "From all introducers and traducers, Good Lord, deliver us." But I would own, for I had had other experiences like this evening, that I counted myself peculiarly happy in my introducers and that I could not have more prudently chosen my traducers if I had chosen them myself.

There are also numerous superb passages which typify Wilson's lofty idealism. One of these, his peroration at Scranton, describes the mission of America:

The vision of America will never change. America once, when she was a little people, sat upon

a hill of privilege and had a vision of the future. She saw men happy because they were free. She saw them free because they were equal. She saw them banded together because they had the spirit of brothers. She saw them safe because they did not wish to impose upon one another. And the vision is not changed. The multitude has grown, that welcome multitude that comes from all parts of the world to seek a safe place of life and of hope in America. And so America will move forward, if she moves forward at all, only with her face to that same sun of promise. Just so soon as she forgets the sun in the heavens, just so soon as she looks so intently upon the road before her and around her that she does not know where it leads, then will she forget what America was created for; her light will go out; the nations will grope again in darkness and they will say: "Where are those who prophesied a day of freedom for us? Where are the lights that we followed?"

Last of all, Wilson's essential humility, his realization of himself as a fallible human being, subject to the judgment of posterity. These were the words in which he told his audience at Detroit (September 19, 1912) how it felt for the historian to play a role in important historical events:

I pity the man who in the year 1912 promises the people of the United States anything that he cannot give them. I used to say sometimes when I was attempting to write history that I could sit on the side lines and look on with a certain degree of complacency upon the men who were performing in the arena of politics; because, I said, after the game is over some quiet fellow like myself will sit down in a remote room somewhere and tell the next generation what to think of you fellows, and they will think what he tells them to think. He assesses; he sums up. You may talk yourselves tired, and your own estimate of yourselves will be discounted.

And now that I am myself exposed I think of that quiet jury sitting in those rooms surrounded by nothing but shelves and books and documents. I think of the anticipated verdict of another generation, and I know that the only measure and standard by which a man can rise or fall is the standard of absolute integrity; that he can deceive nobody but himself and his own generation for a little space.

So it was that Wilson, like Winston Churchill, realized that history alone held the final answer.

Without Compromise

“Woodrow Wilson and the Politics of Morality,” by John Morton Blum (Little, Brown, 215 pp. \$3.50), a new volume in the Library of American Biography, is a critical reappraisal of the leadership of the World War I President. Walter Johnson, professor of American history at the University of Chicago, is our reviewer.

By Walter Johnson

WOODROW WILSON has long had a fascination for biographers, historians, and students of politics. Here was a Christian statesman with a deep faith in a morally guided universe, a confident belief in his own destiny to lead men at home and abroad away from evil to the path of greatness. His Presbyterian stubbornness helped him surmount formidable obstacles, but at the same time produced an inflexibility and a sense of self-righteousness. At times this hindered his leadership in a democratic society where compromise was essential to progress.

As President, Wilson played a significant role in formulating democratic ideals and aspirations, in pushing toward an adjustment of capitalism to democracy, in strengthening the office of the Presidency, and in stirring some comprehension of the new position of the nation in world affairs. But, as John M. Blum insists in the newest volume in the Library of American Biography, “Wilson’s was a nineteenth-century intelligence, obsolescing at a rapid rate.” His conscience and intellect, stern and bright as they were, “stood still while the race of time transfigured the world they understood.”

Professor Blum (author of “Joe Tumulty and the Wilson Era” and “The Republican Roosevelt”) brings to this study of Wilson a keen understanding of the important issues of the day, a familiarity with the major figures and forces molding events, and a thorough knowledge of the manuscript and published literature of the Wilson era. The result is a frank, often blunt, analysis of Wilson’s strengths and weaknesses. Wilson’s skill at projecting his ideas to the public and mobilizing support for legislation as governor of New Jersey and as President, his sensitivity to the demand for domestic reform, and his ability to steer legislation through Congress are well developed by Mr. Blum. But Wilson’s naivete in world affairs, his lack of knowledge of the forces that

brought World War I, and his sentimental pacifism receive severe censure. Wilson’s failure to examine the assumptions behind our neutrality policy from 1913 to 1917, Mr. Blum believes, allowed mistaken sentiments to flourish in the nation. One might go further and suggest that Wilson not only allowed this confusion toward our future allies to grow, but that he encouraged it. Then, as the author observes, we entered the war without an understanding of the real issue in terms of the importance of Europe to America’s own security. Instead Wilson misled the nation by describing it as a war for democracy and freedom, thus complicating the peace-making when the realities of world politics came to the fore.

At the Versailles Peace Conference it was amazing that Wilson accomplished as much as he did, but he had aroused the nation to believe that a new heaven and a new earth would be achieved. When these expectations could not be attained a coalition of isolationists, pacifists, prewar progressives, Irish-Americans, German-Americans, Italian-Americans, and partisan Republicans was forged to defeat the Versailles Treaty and our entrance into the League of Nations.

This coalition, Mr. Blum believes, would not have been successful, however, if Wilson had been flexible enough to work out a compromise with those favoring mild reservations to the League. “Wilson at his healthy best brought the treaty to the shoals,” Mr. Blum concludes. “Wilson at his crippled worst steered it to disaster. This was sad for him, his country, and the world. But it was evil that irresponsible partisans—Republicans like Lodge, Democrats who followed a blind leader though they could see—permitted it to happen. Wilson’s disintegration did not excuse the hollow workings of their vanity.”

LOOKING back on the Wilson record, the author feels that the healthy heritage he left overbalanced Wilson’s weaknesses and mistaken assumptions. “In office and in memory,” Mr. Blum observes, “he served not just the people who elected him but also decency, the dignity of the individual, and therefore democracy.”

Mr. Blum’s book is a highly readable and constructive analysis of Wilson and his times. The manner in which Wilson’s ideas were developed and the interplay of domestic and world events on them illuminates the trials of a nation seeking adjustment to the incredible changes of the twentieth century.

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