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WILSON

The Story of His Life From the Cradle to the White House

By WILLIAM BAYARD HALE

cent. Not less than forty-two out of the 122 graduates of '78 were "honor men." Wilson barely got in sujong them. He ranked forty-first.

The fact is that this sou of clergy-men and editors hadn't come to school to pass through a standardized curriculum and fill his head with the knowledge prescribed in a college catalogue. He had come to prepare him self for a particular career, and before he had been at Princeton three months he had finally determined on what that career should be.

The class historian, Harold (Pete) Godwin, celebrating the advent in

The class historian, Barold (Pete)
Godwin, relebrating the advent in
Princeton of the members of the class
that graduated in 79, declares that on
arrival "Tommy Wilson rushed to the
library and took out Kant's "Critique
of Pure Reason."

To the tibrary Tommy Wilson un
questionably did rush, but not to read
of pure reason. If ever there was a
student who demanded facts, concrete
subjects, appiled reason, if was this
same Wilson, even in his college days.

The truth is that, prowling in the alcoves of the Chancellor Green Herrir,
new then, one day early in the term
the boy stopped at the head of the
south stairs, where the bound magasines were kept, and his hand fell
upon a file of the Gentleman's Magazine, that ancient and respectable repository of English literature which
Dr. Samuel Johnson had helped to
start away back in the middle of the
elighteenth century, with his reports of

Chilten Hundreds."
Thomas Woodrow Wilson happened to pick up this volume of the Gentleman's Magazine and to turn to the pages occupied by "Men and Manner in Parliament"—and from that moment his life plan was fixed.

It was a rear of brilliant parliaments.

and substitute the college studies and substitute and seemed to have no particular ambient growth and seemed to have no particular ambition in the college studies, but he devoted every energy to the furnishing and the training of his mind as an authority on government, the history of government and leadership in public life. He began to practice the elective system ten pears before Princeton did. His most intimate elassemate. Robert Bridges, says of him that his college career was reparkated for the "confident selection"



Madison.

Here the young man was in his glory. He entered eagerly into its traditions and became almost immediate by one of its leading spirits. To rending and writing day and night upon his favorite themes he began to add practice in elecution. One of his class mates troubled with a weak throat who was sent down to Potter's woods to practice exercises, often saw Wilson in another part of the woods declaiming from a volume of Burke. On vacations he was known to spend a good deal of time reading aloud and declaiming in his father's church at Will mington. Another debating society or

cations he was known to spend a good deal of time reading aloud and de claiming in his father's church at Wil mington. Another debating society or ganized by Wilson himself, called the Liberal Debating club, was fashioned after the British parliament.

Wilson does not appear as a great prize winner. However, he did score as second sophomore orator in the Whig Hall contest and was one of the fit erary men of the class, an oration on Cobden and an essay on lord Chatham being especially recorded.

Connected with the two big prizes, of the college are two stories which throw light upon Wilson's character as a student. The English literary prize of \$125 his classmates thought that Wilson might easily win, but when he learned that to compete meant to shend time studying Ben Jonson and two plays of Shakespeare he refused to go into it, saying he had no time to sparrfrom the reading that interested him. The other big prize, that of the Lynde debate, had been founded they are of Wilson's entrance to college and he had undoubtedly looked to ward to winning it throughout micourse. The Lynde was an extem poraneous discussion participated in by three representatives from each of the two halls. The halls' representatives were thus chosen, a subject was proposed by a committee, and candidates were required to argue on a ther side, as was determined by and by universal consent. Wilson's was now the star debater of the Whig society ther side, as was determined by not By universal consent Wilson was now the star debater of the While society. He was quite in a class by himself and there was no doubt in anybody's mind that he would represent the hair and win the prize. The subject for the preliminary debate in Whig Hair was "Free Trade Versus Trojection." Wilson put his hand into the hat and frew out a slip which required him to argue in favor of "protection." He tore up the slip and refused to debate. He was a convinced and passionate free trader, and nothing under heaven, he swore, would induce him to advance arguments in which he did not be lieve.

board; the '79's did not. Wilson ridiculed '85's headgear,
Wilson lived first at the house of
Mrs. Wright. One of his classmates.
Bob McCarter, who also lived at Mrs.
Wright's, tells of a certain evening
when the two were engaged in Wilson's study in a quiet game of euchre.
a forbidden pastime in those days.
On the table, as it happened, lay a Bible. A knock was beard at the door.
McCarter swiftly swept the cards out
of sight under the table and went to
the door. Before he opened it beturn
ed his head for a moment, the thought
fashing over him that the conscientious Wilson might have put the cards
back in plain view on the 'table. But
what he saw was—Wilson reading the
Bible.

Bible.
At this time it is recorded that he weighed 156 pounds and stood five feet eleven.
While without particular inclination or ability in athletics and while back in '75-9 athletics did not play the part in college life that it now plays, Woodrow Wilson was a leader in the encourgement of sports and in '78-9 was president of the athletic committee, at another time of the bareball associations.

22 14 18 16

Result—a loose pile
Of his besuttil golden har.
During his senfor year Wilson threw
into the form of a closely reasoned
easay the chief results of his thinking
on the subject of the American contrasted with the British system of
government "This article he sent to
what was regarded as the most serious
magazine then published in America,
and it was immediately accepted for
publication. The author was twentytwo years old and an undergraduate.

In the files of the international Review, issue of Auguist, 1879, may be
found an article entitled "Cabinet Goveriment in the United States," signed
by Thomas W. Wilson. It was an im
peachment of government by "a legis
lature which is practically irresponsible" and a plea for a reformed methof under which congress should be
again made responsible and swiftly
responsive in some such way as is the
British parliament. The author's
quarrel is with the practice of doing
all the important work of congress in
secret committees. Secrecy, he says,
is the atmosphere in which all corruption and evil flourish. "Congress
should legislate as if in the presence
of the whole country—in open and
free debate." (These words were writ
ten thirty three years ago.) He attributes the growth of the committee ten thirty-three years ago. He at-tributes the growth of the committee system to the lack of leaders in con-gress, and his plan for the creation of leaders is that of giving cabinet min

Wilson closed his undergraduate days at Princeton. During his senior year lated in the law department of the University of Virginia, that seat of liberalearning organized by Thomas Jeffe

Still Studying Law and Politi

AR and reconstruction had reduced the number of students at Charlottesville to 328 in the session of 1879-80, but war and reconstruction had not low ered Virginia's lofty standard either

A man had to work to pass his examinations. Still there was a gay set as well as a steady set, and Wilson had friends among both.

Sports were engaged in to the exte

the students or with a nine from neighboring town, a foot race or two in the autumn and some boat racing. Wilson played a little baseball and took long walks through the pleasant country lying about, often alone though sometimes with a favorite com-panion. At Princeton Greek letter fra ternities were illegal, but they existed with the approval of the faculty at the University of Virginia, and Wilson w initiated into the Phi Kappa Psi.

He joined the chapel choir and the glee club. The latter circle of har monious spirits made serenading ex-cursions in the country roundabout cursions in the country roundabout two or three times a week, winding up its pleasure imparting career with a grand concert in the town hall. Wil sou many a night stumbled along the rocky roads with his fellow gleemen to arrive at last under the balcony of some damsel and lift his fine tenor voice in "She Siceps, My Lady Sleeps," and "Speed Away," At the grand con-cert, which was given on the evening of the fimil ball, a brilliant-audience of the final ball, a brilliant audience that crowded the ball beheld the prize orator and prize writer step down to the foolights and render a touching tenor solo. Wilson is best remembered as a singer, however, by the thrilling effect with which he usually achieved the high note near the end of "The Star Spangled Banner."

Wilson did a good deal of writing while at Charlottesville. From the road in front of "Dawson's row" pass-ersby would see him sitting at the window in the southeast corner of

In March, 1880, the University Mag azine printed an article by him on John Bright, in the following month another on Gladstone. The young man's mind still ran, as it had run af Princeton, on the personality of the great political lenders.

The John Bright article was really a version of an oration which Wilson was delivering that month. So great haff his reputation grown in also months that there was a considerable demand from outside the university for admission, and the occasion was thrown open to the public.

At Charlottesville, as at Princeton.

Brie's, a young orator of extraordinary ability

The chief annual event at Charlottesville was a debating contest in the
Jeffersionian society, at which two gold
medais were awarded, one for debating, the other for oratorical ability.
Bruce was given the debater's gold
medai, while the orator's prize went
to Wilson. The opinion of pretty near
iy everybody, aside from the judges,
was that the award should have been
reversed. Bruce was orants in style,
Wilson stuple, direct and logical.

In a wholly different vein from his
speeches in the "Jeff" society was one
notable effort in which the university's
favorits appeared when he delivered
medais to the winners in athletic
zames. Having agreed to make this

As he had done at Princeton, Wilson at Charlottesville also organized a smaller group of thinking chaps for debate. A member of that group remembers Wilson's unspeakable disgust when they chose as the subject for one night's discussion the question whether there he any fundamental difference between right and wrong.

common law, an easy going and much beloved man, and Dr. John B. Minor who taught everything else in the course and was in fact the college of law.

Dr. Minor probably influenced Wil

tice of law Atlanta was chosen for this experiment simply because it was this experiment simply because it was the most rapidly growing city of the south. The young man knew nobody there. He met another young man, like himself a stranger in the city, whither he, too, had come to practice law—Edward Ireland Renick. The two agreed on a partnership; on rau-

tual inquiry Renick proved to be slightly the older, so that the shingle was lettered "Renick & Wilson." It was hung out of the window of a room or

Wilson's sole idea had been to use the law as a stepping stone to a po-litical career. Most of the public men of the south had come from the ranks of the law. In eighteen months in At-lanta he learned that it was impossible for a man without private means to by to establish a practice without giv-ing up all idea of study and writing not strictly connected with the pro-fession. The law was a jealous mis-

But the Atlanta experiment was not without its great good fortune. During the ummer of 1883 Mr. Wil-son found time to make what turned

son found time to make what turned out to be a momentous visit. His old playmate and cousin, Jessie Woodrow Bones, with whom he had played indian on the sand hills near Augusta, was now living in Rome, Ga. To Rome had come also another family with whom the Wilsons had been been in ther was a distinguished clergyman in Savannah, and his wife's father, the Rev. Nathan Hoyt, was long pastor of the Presbyterian church at Athens, Ga.

the Presbyterian church at Athens, Ga. The calls upon his time not being entirely occupying, as has been hinted, young Wilson went to Rome to see his cousin, and stayed to see more of Miss Eilen Louise Axson. The meeting was on the plazza of the Boneshome in East Rome. To be accurate, it was not quite the couple's first meeting. He had been a passionate admirer of the lady when he was a boy of seven and she was a baby. The sentiment of those days, beyond the recollection of either, revived. He recollection of either, revived. He took her home that erening. She lived in Rome across the river. She must have been captivating, for as he came back across the bridge he clinched his hand and took a silent oath that Ellen

back across the bridge he clinical inhand and took a silent oath that Ellen
Louise Axson should be his wife.

Which also in due time came to pass
They had seen each other eleven
times before he had persuaded her to
say "Yes." There was no idea of an
immediate marriage. Already, per
ceiving that the practice of law was
not the path for him, he had settled
upon the plan of going to Johns Hop
kins university to spend two or threy
years more studying the science of
government.

The partnership of Renick & Wilson
was dissolved. The young man to
whom the people of Atlanta gave so
little encouragement, but who had wor
what made him inestimably happier
than anything else Georgia could have
given him, went north in September
About the same time Miss Axson, too
went to New York to develop her ai

went to New York to develop her al rendy recognized talents in painting as a member of the Art Students

league.

The next two years of Woodrow Wilson's life were spent at Johns Hopkins university as a student of history and political economy. Here he was one of an unusually interesting group which

der to pay some expense of the organ-faction, the grave gentlemen who at the time presided over the destinies of the university denurred. President Gil-man offered to donate the necessary



noney provided the club would give its concert without admission fee. In the slight contriversy that followed Wi-son appeared as an insurgent, protest-ing that the gree club had its dignity to consider as well as had the university. The concert was given as originally planned, and no one felt that the dig-

says—"An Old Master."

Early in 1885 was completed and published—the result of the suggestion made by the perusal of the Gentieman's Magazine articles ten years be-fore and of constant thought and study ever since—a book, "Congressional Government—A Study of Government by Committee by Woodrow Wilson."
It was the first account of the actual
working of the constitution of the United States; an inspection of an government, not as it is theorytically constituted, but as it actually works.
The book met with instant success
A serious work seldom makes a sensation, and that word would be too
strong to apply to the invession pre-

strong to apply to the impression pro-duced by "Congressional Government." but it is quite true that it received an

the young man-indeed, a great moment for two young persons. Success like this meant that life was at last to be-There was more work still to be done for a Ph. D. But the Johns Hopkins faculty was to accept the book as a doctor's thesis, and the author accept-ed one of the calls—that from Bryn-Mawr, which wanted him to come as

Axson were married at her grandfa-ther's house, in Savannah, on June 24.

SCHOOLTEACHER'S exista thrilling story. The first a thrilling story. The first seventies years of Woodrow Wilson's life after he left Johns Hep-kins university were spent in teaching. They were years of usefulness. Thou-sands of students will testify to the

them and to him. They were years of delightful living, of cultured and gen hil companionship.

11 was with the unrelinquished purpose of having his part in the mblic life of the antion that Woodrow Wilson entered upon the profession of a teacher of law and politics. It can hardly be said, however, that his first practical was one which gave promise of any large immediate influence on public affairs. A number of Johns Hopkinsmen on the opening in 1835 of Bryn Mawr college accepted as their first professorships places in the faculty of the new institution for women. The vulgar even referred to Bryn Mawr as "Johanna Hopkins." Some were so irreverent as to suggest that the young professors were "merely trying it on the dog." Professor Wilson, though called to Bryn Mawr primarily to give instruction in politics and political economy, taught a good deal besides those subjects. Classical history and the history of the renaissance fell to him. His lectures are said on high authority to have heen "marvels" of scholarship, profoundly impressing his classes.

Professor Wilson worked very hard

an unusually interesting group which included Albert Shaw and E. R. L. Gould. John Franklin Jameson, the historian; Arthur Yager, now president of Georgetown college. Kentucky, and Thomas Dixon, who writes novels.

The advantages enjoyed at Johns Hopkins, by Wilson lay not so much in the nearing of lectures as in the opportunity of making researches. Here he got a valuable impulse in the direction of the careful and exact ascertaining of facts. Though always priding himself on dealing with actualities. Will-son was never a grubber after fact and, indeed, never became one. But he undoubtedly did get here a thaining that balanced the natural tendency of his mind by work from within outward.

He remained two years, the second

presentation. Wilson was very much exercised as to what to say and imparted his perplexity to an intimate friend, who rattled off two pieces of nonsense which he suggested would about suit the taste of the audience in the gymnasium. Neither piece contains of the sightest allusion to athletic sports. Yet the orator worked them in The gymnasium speech represents one of the few occasions in which the young student heat very far from his distinct of the midst of a lorest some times visited.

There was no give club at Johns Hopkins, but Wilson set straightway about organizing one. When it was proposed to give a concert at Hopkins in little signs of apprehending, about organizing one. When it was proposed to give a concert at Hopkins in least of a lorest pound student heat very far from his distinct the grave sentilemen who at the indist of a lorest pound. back south among old friends. It was to the south that the first two children

versity accepting as his thesis his nook
"Congressional Government." During
his third year at Bryon Mawr Profess
or Wilson accepted a sectureship at
Johns Hopkins. This fook him to Bai
timore once a week for twenty five

Social life at Bryn Mawr was mos agreeable. An invitation to an olde and larger institution was, nevertheless, not to be declined. Ampler opportunity opened in a school attended by young men, and in 1888 Professor Wil-

young men, and in 1888 Professor Wilson accepted an election to the chair of history and political economy at Wesleyan university, Middletown, Conn.
From the start Professor Wilson's courses were extremely popular, And well indeed they might be, for New England had rapely beard such instruction as was given in the lecture room of Wesleyan's professor of history and political economy. While at Middletown he continued his lectureship at Johns Hopkins. Now, however, insteal Johns Hopkins. Now, however, instead of going down once a week he bunched his twenty-five lectures in a month of vacation allowed him by the Wesleyan trustees. His fame as a popular lecturer also was growing apace, and he was frequently called to give addresses in New England and the eastern states. It was while at Middletown that he wrote "The State," a volume which, with less pretentions to literary form than his other work, involved an enormous amount of labor."

Mr. Wilson was a member of the athletic committee of Wesleyan and took Johns Hopkins. Now, however, inst

the limited ambition of the Wesleyan boys, who, when they played against Yale, were satisfied only to keep the score down. "That's no ambition at all!" he used to cry. "Go in and win. You can lick Yale as well as any other team. Go after their scalps. Don't admit for a moment that they can beat volt."

you."
Life at Middletown was pleasant But Mr. Wilson's growing reputation would not permit him to remain there. When in 1890 the chair of jurisprudence and politics in Prince lege became vacant through the death of Professor Alexander Johnson the trustees elected to it-the Princeton graduate, who had so quickly distin-guished himself as a student of poli-

row Wilson again domiciled in the Jersey collegiate town. He was now a man whose renown had begun to spread in the world, an author, a pubspread in the world, an author, a public speaker of enviable repute, the head of a family, a figure of consideration, a doctor, if you please, both of philosophy and of law.

The Wilsons rented a house in Labrary place. After a few years they built a home for themselves on an adjoining lot, an attractive half timered house designed by Mrs. Wilson.

The new professor steeped at once 1012 E. Marshall St.

intq the front rank, as indeed became a Princetor graduate, a member of one of the most famous classes the old college had graduated, a man thoroughly imbued with the best traditions of the place. But his lectures—Princeton had no tradition that ac counted for their charm. They 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 400 students, almost the total number of juniors and seniors combined, were taking Wilson's courses and they were no "cinches" either and they were no "cinches" either Widely informed, marked by a master; in their range and sweep and spiced with a pervading sense of humor. Pro fessor Wilson's lectures were further marked by the great freedom with which he delivered himself of his views on current events. It was his region to the contraction of the property of the contraction of t who had consections with city news papers who might frequently have made good "stories" out of the pro-fessor's lively comments on the poli-tics of the day, but none ever took ad

tics of the day, but none ever took ad vantage of the opportunity.

The classes were now so large that the work of a professor consisted al most entirely of lecturing. As we shall see later, it was not then the Princeton idea to give the students any particular oversight or inspiration elsewhere than in the classroom. Yet the Wilson home became and always remained a resort hugely popular with the young men who were so lucky as to be admitted to it, and its doors were hospitably hung. Professor Wilson, in short, stepped into the position of first favorite alike with his colleagues of the faculty and with the son, in short, stepped into the position of first favorite alike with his colleagues of the faculty and with the undergrads. They have at Princeton a way of voting at the end of each year for all possible sorts of "popular personages." For a number of years Professor Wilson was voted the most popular professor. He was able, he was genial he was active, a member of the faculty committee on discipline. In faculty meetings Mr. Wilson soon became one of those most attentively listened to.

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 steady yet pleasant labor-years of growth and of growing infuence both in the university and in the country. Four new books were added to the list signed by this man who wrote history and politics with so much literary charm-"Division and Rennion." "An Old Master." "Mere Literatures" and "George Wash Continued On Page 2

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