

Today

Wall Street Gave and Took.
The Prophet Cheers Up.
The Place for Big Dogs.
Russia Is So Uncourtly.
By ARTHUR BRISBANE.

Wilson Would Sacrifice Friend for Principle, Disliked Politics; Had Low Regard for Law Practice

By CHARLES L. SWEEM.
Confidential secretary and stenographer to Woodrow Wilson during his eight years in the White House.
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CHAPTER IV.
The ingratitude of which Mr. Wilson was accused was principally academic.

It was not a singular circumstance in one of his birth, his training, or his predilections. He inherited with his Scotch blood all the traditional honesty of the Highland character. He was reared, almost in seclusion, under the sympathetic eye of a high-minded and scholarly father; and his whole life as he chose it for himself was given to the glorification of the abstract truth.

He possessed, further, the courage to make his decisions in the face of all opposition. When what he regarded as a principle was at stake and a friendship intervened, he had no hesitation in sacrificing the friend-

ship. It should be remembered that he was equally as willing to sacrifice himself.

When he returned from Paris, exhausted from his extraordinary labors there, weakened by an attack of influenza, and was told by his physician that a cross-country trip in behalf of the league of nations might be fatal to him, he exclaimed characteristically: "Well, I'll die with my boots on fighting for what I believe in," and ordered his special train.

Likened to McKinley.
A man who has intimately known every president for the last quarter century said this of Mr. Wilson, after working with him for eight years: "He is the most approachable man who has ever been in the White House since McKinley. Roosevelt, who is rated in public estimation the most democratic president we have ever had, would take you by the hand and go into your most intimate af-

fairs with you, but you had always the feeling that it was a pose. President Wilson is more like McKinley. With Mr. Wilson you could feel perfectly free to discuss a matter as you would with a personal friend—but there was always this feeling, that you had to speak the truth and do right."

This is a photographic estimate. His open and unaffected personality invited the most intimate and loyal friendships, but he made no distinction between friend and enemy in the furtherance of duty. This was such a unique idea to be introduced into politics that the trait was one for which he was severely criticized. But it was this stubborn honesty, intellectual and otherwise, his absolute integrity, his contempt for the temporary or expedient, which was the true source of Mr. Wilson's greatness. On one occasion, when he learned that a clerk had carelessly paid for a two-cent stamp from the government treasury for one of the Wilson family, he rebuked the clerk and reimbursed the government with two pennies; on another, he just as freely called a colleague to task for overstating the achievements of the administration.

Friends Outside Politics.
Yet, despite the exactions of his

high sense of duty, he made and retained many friendships. The greater part of his personal correspondence was with companions and friends of earlier days, before his extraordinary sense of responsibility exacted such heavy toll of his affections. No man ever had more loyal or enduring attachments than he, but it is significant that these were for the most part not in politics.

His most cherished friendships were necessarily outside of political life men with whom he had labored and differed, men of the same high principle and feeling as himself. Many of these he did attempt to draw into the whirlpool of service by the profferment of high government honors, but with few exceptions they declined.

The subsequent careers of the few that he persuaded strikingly emphasize the nature of the attachment that bound them to him. Like him, they were students and philosophers, not politicians, who saw in public life the opportunity of service, of translating into practice the things they had thought out through years of study.

They never attempted to realize upon his friendship for political or personal advantage. They were familiar with his mental processes and knew beforehand what to expect.

"People shouldn't have feelings in politics," he said once when reproached for refusing an obligation of friendship.

He had no patience or tolerance for the amenities of politics. He considered the introduction of politics into a public argument as a species of blackmail. In any hearing before him, the first note of politics would invariably bring the fire to his eyes and rebuke to his tongue. Several times I have heard him rebuke delegations for urging political considerations, and once he angrily interrupted a speaker who insisted upon making his argument a political one and called upon the delegation to choose another speaker before he would allow them to continue with their case.

No Liking for Law.
He had no more patience for the general practice of law than he had for politics. He once gave me as his opinion that law as usually practiced was a mere money-making device and not the instrument of justice it should be. This opinion undoubtedly actuated many an important decision of his official life. He was always wary of the mental processes of the lawyer. He turned invariably to the philosophical student of law for counsel rather than to the practitioner. One of Mr. Lansing's criticisms of him at

the peace conference is that he would not permit lawyers to have any part in the drafting of the league of nations.

Several times I saw him refuse to appoint candidates to positions because they were lawyers and nothing else. "We need a heart in our law as well as justice," he said. I recall

that he once gave as the reason for the rapid progress of the movement for woman suffrage that women feel further than men do; that the day of cold thinking and fine-spun constitutional argument is gone.

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