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# THE NEW AMERICA

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BY

BECKLES WILLSON

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"Continual sweeping changes cannot but be disastrous; but where needs shift rapidly as they do here, where we often live in one year what Europe does in ten, we need reapplication of established principles to changed conditions."—THEODORE ROOSEVELT, *September 22nd, 1902.*

'Αλλὰ μην, ἣν δ' ἐγὼ εἰς ἱκανὸς γενόμενος, πόλιν ἔχων πειθομένην ταύτ' ἐπιτελέσαι τὰ νῦν ἀπιστουμένα.—PLATO, *Rep. VI.*

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LONDON: CHAPMAN & HALL, LD.

1903



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## PREFACE

IN these pages it will be my aim to point out broadly some of the new conditions and tendencies which appear to me to prevail in the United States of America, in its external and domestic politics, in its commerce, its society, its literature.

Commentaries on conditions which pertained a decade or two ago bear an almost ludicrous disparity to the facts of 1902; and no recent writer has been more keenly conscious of this embarrassing mutability than Mr. Bryce, who declared, in the opening chapter of his "American Commonwealth," that "America changes so fast that every few years a new crop of books is needed to describe the new face which things have put on, the new problems that have appeared, the new ideas germinating among the people, the new and unexpected developments for evil as well as for good of which her established institutions have been found capable."