A MODERN PURGATORY

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A modern purgatory by Carlo de Fornaro

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CARLO DE FORNARO

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NEW YORK
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1917

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"It is believed in this country that a poor man has less chance to get justice administered to him than a rich man."

> -Woodrow Wilson, in a speech in Chicago, January 11, 1913.

INTRODUCTION

THIS book is a record of the prison experiences of Carlo de Fornaro, artist, writer, editor, revolutionary. It is a record of experiences in the famous Tombs Prison, in New York City, and in the New York City penitentiary on Blackwell's Island—a record of the daily happenings of life in a prison, of brutalities and stupidities and abominations; a sordid record, from the pages of which gleam many fine human things, the sympathies and kindnesses and sacrifices of men thrust by society into the dark of prison because society was afraid of them.

The book begins with the author's imprisonment, and ends with his release or discharge from prison. It is the tale of his punishment, but it tells nothing of the "crime" that brought the punishment upon him.

It is a strange story, that of the circumstances that brought him to prison and an unprecedented proceeding in the United States, a prosecution for libelling an official of a foreign government.

Carlo de Fornaro came to America when he