

his subsequent political fortunes than the decision which Roosevelt made in 1910 with respect to his own future participation in the affairs of the United States. Here one has in mind particularly the meeting between the slayer of lions and Gifford Pinchot—a meeting which took the form of a long walk in the neighbourhood, unless memory fails, of the Riviera di Levante. Pinchot had already broken acutely with Taft, and it is hardly to be doubted that there was intensive conversation between him and Roosevelt on the outlook of the Republican party, during the course of that ramble among cliffs which overhang the Mediterranean. Whether Roosevelt had already decided before returning to the United States that he would lead the Progressive movement is perhaps not yet a matter of public knowledge. But whether he made this vital decision while he was still in Europe, or only after he landed in New York, the decision was made during the summer of 1910, and it determined the whole course of his subsequent career. Such was his popularity that had he been content to remain in retirement for a relatively short time, without thrusting himself into party politics, he might well have been called forth from dignified seclusion by an overwhelming cry of the masses. But had he been content thus to go into seclusion he would not have been Roosevelt. In short, the prudent and sagacious Augustus would have been satisfied to keep in the background at such a juncture, whereas Roosevelt, on his return from Europe in 1910, threw his hat into the ring and began to fight more strenuously than ever before, with the result that he completely disrupted the Republican party.

Now Wilson's resolve to go to Europe belongs no less in the category of momentous decisions than does Roosevelt's action in placing himself at the head of the Republican Progressives. In terms of American politics, Wilson's presence at Versailles is a challenge. If he returns to Washington with all the glamor of unquestioned and unquestionable success, he will find himself enthroned in the confidence of his fellow-citizens as never before. On the other hand, if mis-