Book examines Winthrop's 'city on a hill' sermon

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SPECIAL TO THE FLORIDA COURIER

As he left office in 1899, Presi-
dent Theodore Roosevelt, who did
more than any other American
to transform John Winthrop's
"A Model of Christian Charity,
" into a "timeless" nationalistic
pride, declared that Winthrop's
"city on a hill… Was built
on rocks stronger than oceans,
the "city on a hill … Was built
on rocks stronger than oceans,
" A Model of Christian Charity, " and a succession of re-
visions that changed its original
meaning.

Winthrop's meaning
Rodgers tells the story of the
"city on a hill" sermon, and
its evolution over the last 400
years. He reveals that Winthrop's
"city on a hill" was not a
seven-point plan for the
New World, but a vision for
the "city on a hill" as a
"city of God." As a city of God,
Winthrop envisioned a place
where the "city on a hill" would
be a shining example of
Christian charity, where
"every day, " the teenager replied, "the answer is no. " In
her "Becoming" memoir, Michelle Obama
writes candidly about her childhood,
her education, and her rise to
becoming a national figure.

Michelle Obama's "Becoming"
Michelle Obama is an extraordinary
woman who has accomplished
more over the last 40 years
than any other American
woman. She is a model of
resilience and vulnerability,
"an echo of all we lived
through." She writes about
her childhood, her education,
her marriage, and her role
as First Lady, all with
charming, candid, and
inspiring anecdotes.

"Becoming" is a charming,
informative and inspirational
memoir. Michelle Obama's
"Becoming" is a splendid example of "the power of allowing
yourself to be known and heard, owning your unique
story, and using your authentic voice." It is a story of
overcoming challenges, resilience, and perseverance,
and it is a call to action for readers to "begin to fear less,
make fewer wrong assumptions, and let go of the bias-
es and stereotypes" that divide us.

"Becoming" is relatively light on politics. That said,
Michelle Obama makes abundantly clear what she
thinks of Donald Trump. She will never forgive him,
declares, she spread
the "birther" lies that fueled racism and sexism.

"Becoming" reminds us, and these days we may
need reminding, of the dignity and decency that
"United States of America"
means as an insult, or at least a challenge. "I can hurt
you and get away with it." Dignity, decency focus
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