# FAMILY LIFE REFLECTED IN THE MIND OF A FATHER OF THREE GIRLS

# CELEBRATION OF FATHERHOOD THAT GLORIFIES MOTHERHOOD

The Story of a Few Years in the Life of a Typical American Family of Three Motherless Daughters Told by Ernest Poole

by setting apart a day in its honor, protested against ignoring the father. He Fabre thoughtfully, insisted that fatherhood also deserved some honor, and said as much to a comparty of women. But he is a comedian and the women did not take him seriously,

But why shouldn't we honor the father" asked Doctor McFabre, with whom I had been discussing the recent observance of Mother's Day. "In the Decalogue we are enjoined to honor father and mother, and the father comes first." "The Decalogue, you know, was origi-

nally the code of an Oriental people," said I, "and it has often surprised me that the mother was mentioned at all. Women among the Orientals do not hold a very high place. Christianity has lifted them from the position of slaves to that of part ners. We know now that motherhood fills so large a place in the general scheme of things that we cannot realize that it was not always so. You know that there are men now talking about the motherbood of God."

"All tommyrot!" exclaimed young Ames, who had come in with his uncle. Before either of us had time to make any reply "Senator" Owen and his sister Dorothy were shown in.

"What do you think, Owen, of having national holiday to honor the fathers?"

"Theoretically it seems desirable," said he, 'but practically I do not think much of it. All that there is in fatherhood is included in motherhood, and motherhood includes so much more that I do not think Father's Day would arouse much in-

"I did not know you had so high an epinion of motherhood, Dick," his sister remarked. She was looking tenderly at

Ames glanced in her direction and he apparently saw her for the first time, although he had met her at my house on many previous evenings. The mother instinct shining out of her face seemed to appeal to something in him. Was it a desire to be mothered? He pulled himself together as if ashamed of his unconscious tribute to womankind and demanded

"Why does not some one write a book about fathers? Literature is full of mother stuff."

Some one has done it," said I. "And it is more than a book about fathers. It be a book about a family from the point of view of the father."

"That is certainly a novel point of view." remarked Doctor McFabre.

"The book is called 'His Family,' and the hero is a man about sixty years old." "How interesting!" exclaimed Dorothy, "Novels are usually written about young people and are mostly love stories."

"Yes, I know. But the little love stories serve to amuse us while we read them. We forget them when another is in our hands. It takes more than the courting of two young persons to make a book that will live. This book will interest full-grown men and women more than young people."

"It is by Ernest Poole, a Princeton graduate in the class of 1902, who was engaged in university settlement work in New York for several years. He has written some short stories, two plays and another novel. 'The Harbor,' which was published last year. He gives promise of developing into one of the biggest men writing fiction in America. This book in one of the best things which I have read in a long time. Poole has attempted to describe the career of an American family in New York and to show how it touches the various interests of life and how it is affected by them. It is bound together by the way the activities of the three daughters affect the father. One of the daughters is married when the story opens and has a family of growing children. Another is the principal of a school on the East Side and the third is interested in nothing but her own pleasures The motive is found in the remark of the mother on her deathbed ten or fifteen Years earlier, that the father would live on in the lives of his children. He doe

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FRANCIS WILSON some years ago, so live. He finds in them his own characteristics and the characteristics of his mand a formal celebration of motherhood ancestors crop out in unexpected ways." "All fathers notice that," said Dr. Mc-

"And sometimes they are surprised and grieved at it," said I. "There used to be in Brooklyn a Society of Ethical Culture which studied Herbert Spencer and evolution. Its president once said at a meeting which I attended that the highest incentive to morality lay in the knowledge that we are responsible for the character of the future generation and that unless we live upright lives our children will inherit our vices and the race degenerate."

"The Bible told us long before Spencer wrote that the sins of the fathers are isited upon the children to the third and fourth generations," said McFabre There is nothing new in that."

"It is an old truth, but each genera tion sceme to have to discover it for itself The most artistic touch and the trues in this whole book is the treatment of the youngest daughter, in whom the wild outs that the father sowed in his youth apring up into an abundant crop. She is selfish and sensual and devotes herself to pleasure. She marries and is divorced and is married again, but she refuses to have children. She appears occasionally in the pages of the book, but as a beautiful blemish, and we are given to understand that this is not one of the children in which the father will live on. When she dies, that will be the end of that phase of his character. Sin is barren. and, like the fig tree which bore no fruit is plucked up and cast into the fire. You may be interested to know. Dorothy, that this daughter used to dance the tange and to foxtrot on the roof gardens of the fashionable hotels in the same company with men and women with whom carefully reared young women should be ashamed to be seen.

"I do not wonder that she turned out had," said McFabre.

"But I like to foxtrot and tange," said Derothy. "Dick won't let me go to the coof gardens."

"Til take you," said Ames.

"Not so fast," said his uncle. "You'd better get her brother's consent first. He knows more about such places than you do. If he does not want his sister to be brought into contact with that kind of life we should respect his wishes."

"I certainly do wish to keep Dorothy a little choicer than that," said Owen.

"We are getting a long way from fatherhood," I said, to bring them back to safer ground. "In spite of Mr. Poole's purpose to magnify the father, his most interesting character is the sister, who is school teacher. She is the personification of motherhood and mothers the 3000 children in her school, and their parents as well, and all the people living in the part of the city which her school serves. As an example of what capable and efficient mother instinct can do for benefiting the community, nothing better has appeared in recent fiction. She finally marries and mothers her own little child, and thereby comes into a more intimate relation with all those whom she is trying to help. One evening a short time before the father dies the daughter puts her little boy on the bed beside him, where he goes to sleep. The grandfather, looking down at the infant and seeing in him the promise of the continuance of his line for another generation, whispers softly: Good night, little brother. God grant the world be very kind."

"It must be a moving story," said Dorothy gently, while her eyes sparkled with moisture.

"It is, and it is the greatest story that has come from the publishers this spring; great in its grasp of life, great in its masterful handling of pressing social and educational problems, and above all, great in the sincerity of its purpose."

GEORGE W. DOUGLAS. HIS FAMILY. By Ernest Poole, author of "The Harbor." New York: The Macmillan Company. \$1.50.

American Labor Conditions

An intimate glimpse into the home life roblems of the American wage-earner is given in "Conditions of Labor in American Industries." by W. Jett Lauck and Edgar Sydenstricker, For the student of economics or sociology or for the thoughtful workman himself the volume can well serve as a textbook to guide individual inquiry. In textbook to guide individual inquiry. In the preparation of the book the two col-laborators combed virtually all available in-dustrial statistics, beginning with the year 1900. The result is not a critical discus-sion, but rather a summary of the principal and fundamental facts. The adequacy of prevailing wage scales, the living condi-tion of the wage-server and his family tions of the wage-earner and his family and the conditions causing irregular emloyment are among the various ramificaployment are among the various raminea-tions of the labor problem presented. The authors make no attempt to prescribe reme-dies for the known injustices; their posi-tion is simply that of diagnosticians, who expose the ills for the good of the work-ingman and of the public.

ONDITIONS OF LABOR IN AMERICAN IN-DUSTRIES. By W. Jett Lauck and Edgar Sydensiricker. New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company, \$1.13.

New England Humor

The humor of rural New England is as dry as its hard cider. Madeline Yale Wynne, who lives in Deerfield, Mass., a place whose scenery is described by the na-tives as "neat," has compiled thirty-three tives as "neat." has compiled thirty-three specimens of native humor, which she has told in somewhat free verse and gathered together in a little book with drawings by Gluyas Williams. The book is called "Si Briggs Talks." For example, Si tells the story of the attempt of Jake Baggs, the stage driver, to collect an overdue fare. He

failed. St says: He grinned when he tole me, and says he. Slappin his knee:
It's wuth sevenly-dive cents to me
lest to know what I think of that feller."
I thought to myself 't was cheap at the price.

The other thirty-two specimens are of the same type, some worse, but none better. Those who like to study the ways of the New Englanders will be delighted with the

SI BRIGGS TALKS. By Madeline Tale Wynne with drawings by Gluyae Williams. Boston Houghton Millio Company. \$1.23.



ERNEST POOLE

Whose novel, "His Family," is the greatest story published this spring.

IN THE LAND OF DEEPENING SHADOW

Graphic Pictures of the State of Affairs in Germany as the War Tightens About Her

If it had not been said before, the Germans would have made the remark that language was invented to conceal the truth. This is apparently the sole use to which they have been putting language for the last three years, to go no further back. The only approximation to the truth about to only approximation to the truth about conditions in Germany which we get comes through Americans who have been in the empire since the war began. So persistent and deliberate an attempt has been made to mislead them while they were in termany that even what they say must be accepted with allowance for the conditions under which they have under which they have acquired their infor-mation. The press comorship is so strict that the Germans themselves know only what the Germannent wishes them to know The Government controls public opinion and manufactures it to suit its own purposes. No news dispatches are sent out of the country which have not first been edited by the causors.

The Americans have brought out of the impire a varying lot of stories, but they all agree on this one fact of strict control of the kind of information that is to be dis-seminated. They agree also on the growing deepondency of the German people. It Thomas Curtin, who spent ten months in the country as a representative of Lord North-chiffes English publications has written a book about his experiences, to which he has given the title "The Land of Despening Shadow," for the reason that while he was there he could feet the clouds settling down upon the country and could watch the growing despendency of the people. His book is the story of a great moral and po-litical tragedy. It is a moral tragedy be-cause all Germany is being taught to hate the rest of the world and that no good can come save through hate. That such a mon-strous perversion of all the high theories and ideals held by men since the beginning of time has been attempted would be un-believable if we had not indisputable proof that it is taking place among the Germans. What the fruitage of this seed will be in the years to come must make all friends of the German people sad with a great grief. The tical tragedy is found in the German plans to conquer the world, a wreck that has been brought about through blind egotism that was unable to under-stand that there were ideals which other nations held dear and for which they would fight to the death.

Mr. Curtin gives specific data to prove the extent of the tragedy in progress. He did not depend on efficial sources for his information. He mingled with the people took long walks in the country and talked with the farmers. He went into the potato fields and made his own investigations into the state of the crop. He watched the un-loading of the survivors of the Prussian which had been shot to pieces by the british, and noted the depression of the men, in strong contrast with the fine spirits of the French and British wounded whom he had seen. Gloom was everywhere The working people longed for peacs. The politicians admitted that if the mass of the people knew how the war was going the Government would be forced to make peace at once. But the military autocracy is keeping the people ignorant and fighting

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THE SHADOW LINE A Confession. By Joseph Conrad. Garden City: Double-day, Page & Co. \$1.55

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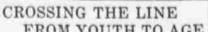
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