

**FEAR GOD IN YOUR
OWN VILLAGE**

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Fear God in your own village by Richard Morse

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RICHARD MORSE

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OWN VILLAGE**

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BY
RICHARD MORSE



UNIV OF
CALIFORNIA

NEW YORK
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TO MY WIFE

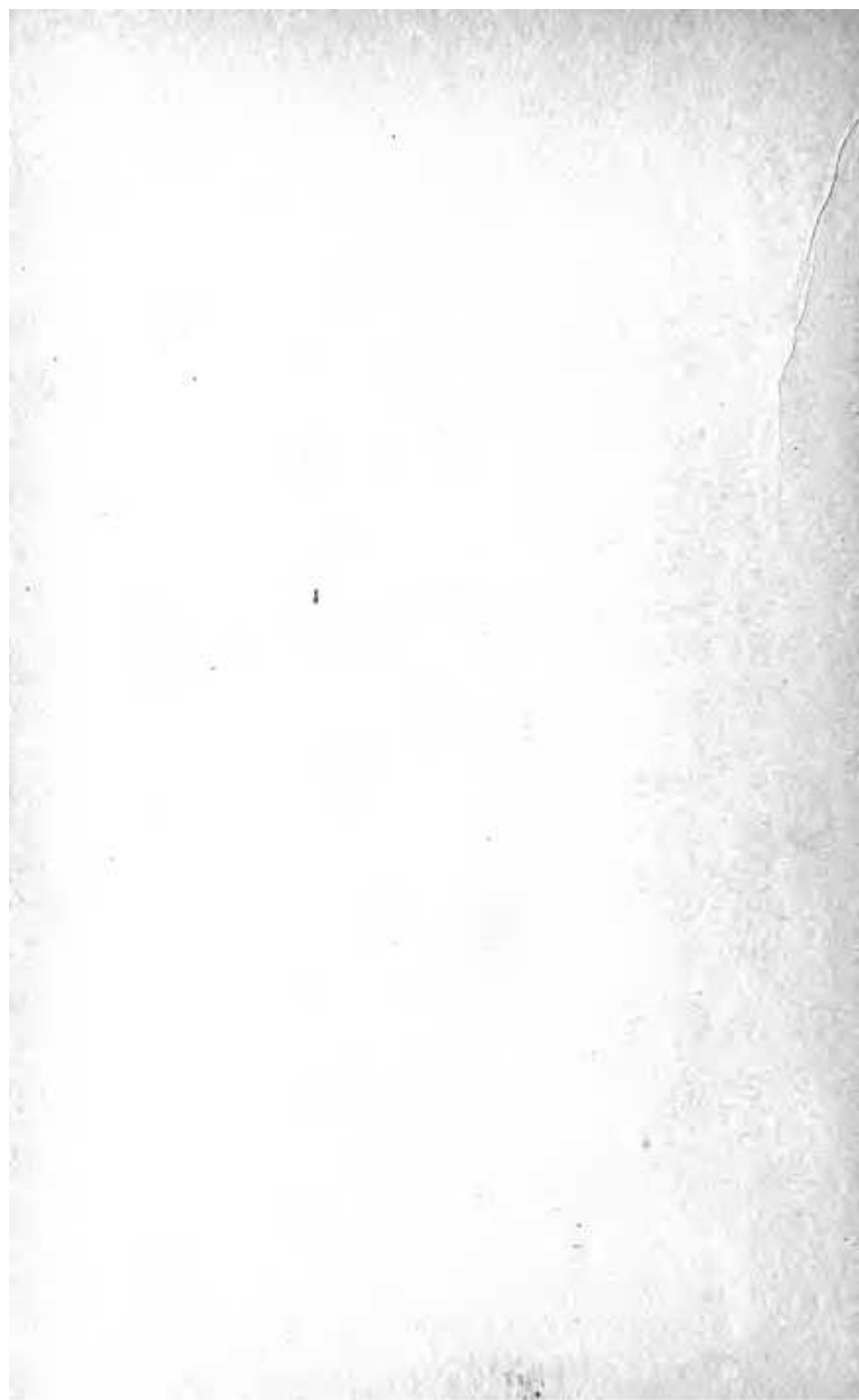
**whose sense of humor and breadth of vision
have brightened many a discouraging day.**

48335 $\frac{1}{2}$

PREFACE

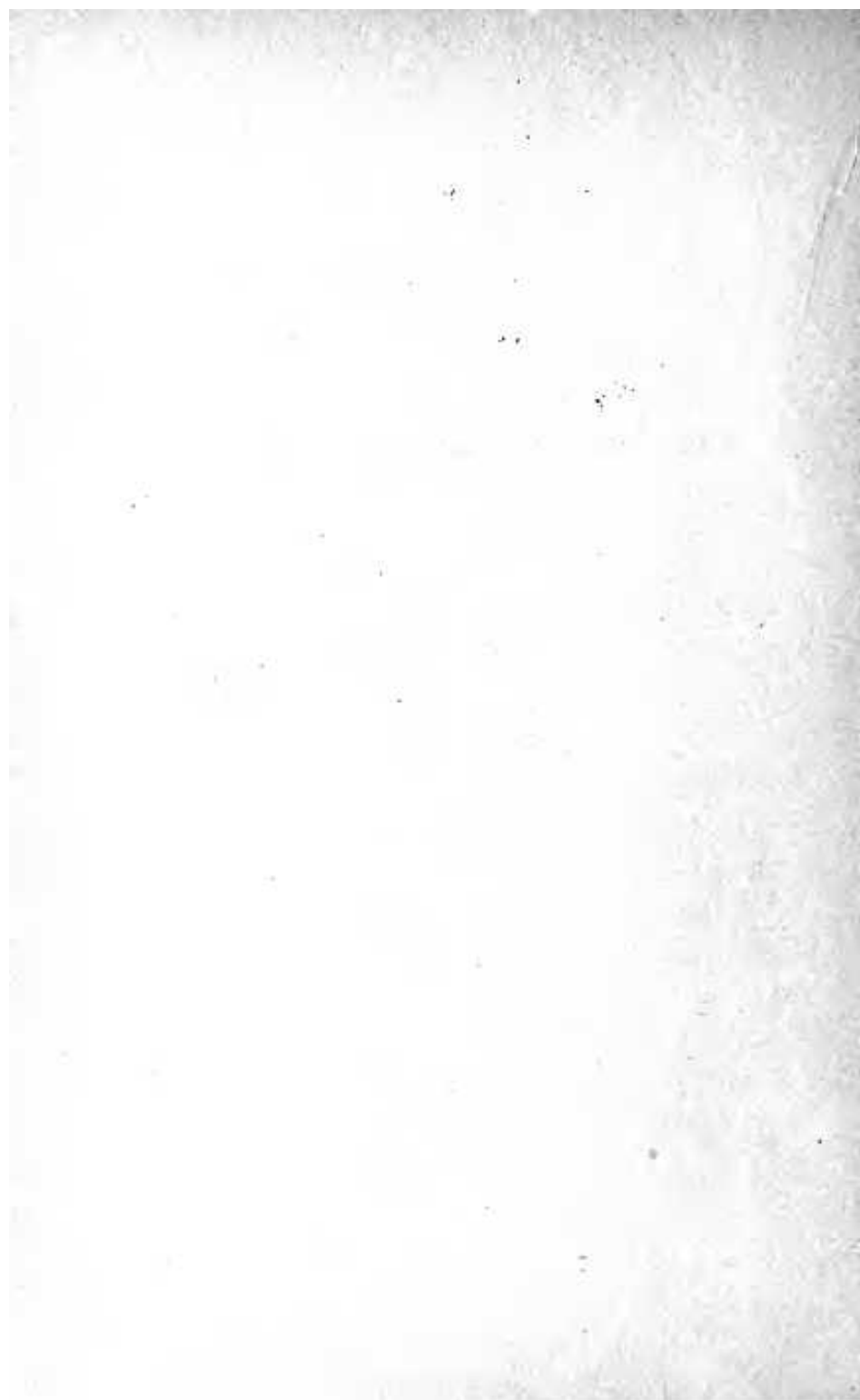
Here is the true story of an attempt to put the fear of God into an American rural community; that is, to bring order out of the chaos of its social and civic affairs, to put pride and co-operation in the place of suspicion and individualism, to make narrow prejudice and plain cussedness give way to sympathy and unselfish service.

Perhaps it will do you good—but it wasn't written for that purpose. It was written largely to explain to my wife why I am so frequently late to meals and why I have not spent more evenings in her dear presence.



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CHAPTER I

DEACON BOSTICK'S VOTE

I do not recall when I met Deacon Bostick. It was probably after my first or second church service in Hildale. But the first I heard about him was one day when Deacon Gordon, our school principal, told me that I had "just about won Deacon Bostick over."

"Won him over?" I said. "*To what, from what?*"

"Why, he is the only member of the Consistory holding out against you. When he gives in we will give you a call to the church and make it unanimous."

"But I thought I was called and called unanimously before I came here," I protested.