

**SHORT STORIES OF THE NEW
AMERICA: INTERPRETING THE
AMERICA OF THIS AGE TO HIGH
SCHOOL BOYS AND GIRLS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649203307

Short stories of the new America: interpreting the America of this age to high school boys and girls by Mary A. Laselle

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MARY A. LASELLE

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SHORT STORIES OF THE NEW AMERICA

INTERPRETING THE AMERICA OF THIS AGE TO
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS AND GIRLS

SELECTED AND EDITED BY
MARY A. LASELLE

OF THE NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS, HIGH SCHOOLS



NEW YORK
HENRY HOLT AND COMPANY

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Printed in the United States of America

PREFACE

THE purpose of this book of short stories of modern American life is twofold.

First, these narratives give an interpretation of certain great forces and movements in the life of this age. All the authors represented are especially qualified to describe with force and feeling some phase of contemporary life.

Thinking people everywhere realize that it is not enough to place before the pupils in the schools the bare facts in regard to community and national life. The heart must be warmed, the feelings must be stirred, before the will can be aroused to noble action in any great movement.

President Wilson has urged school officers to increase materially the time and attention devoted to instruction bearing directly upon the problems of community and national life. This was not a plea for the temporary enlargement of the school programme, appropriate merely to the period of the war, but a plea for the realization in public education of the new emphasis which the war has given to the ideals of democracy.

The first aim of this book, then, is to help to place clearly before young people the ideals of America through the medium of literature that will grip the attention and quicken the will to action.

Second, librarians have stated that there are very

few compilations of modern short stories of interest and significance with which to meet the needs of young people who turn to the libraries for help in reading.

It is hoped that this book may be of real value in the schools, by clothing the dry bones of civics with significant and interesting material, and that it may also supply a need of the libraries and the homes for a book of live and valuable short stories.

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viii THE AUTHORS AND THE STORIES

of some valuable educational works, *The Montessori Mother, Mothers and Children*, and other books of progressive ideas in education. Mrs. Fisher is now in France (1918) carrying on her work of mercy for the French soldiers and their families.

ELSIE SINGMASTER (Mrs. Harold Lewars) lives in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and has written most entertaining stories of that historic region and also of the life of the descendants of the Dutch settlers of Pennsylvania. Among her many stories are *When Sarah Saved the Day, The Christmas Angel, The Flag of Eliphalet*, and *Stories of the Red Harvest and the Aftermath*. This author is a frequent contributor to magazines. In *The Survivors* we watch the conflict in the breast of stubborn old Adam Foust and rejoice with tears in our eyes when in the time of his friend's need, love conquers, and Adam and Henry march arm-in-arm down the village street. The story is told with the realism and beauty that characterize all of this author's work, much of which describes the everyday happenings of commonplace people with absolute fidelity.

ALBERT PAYSON TERHUNE (1872-) wrote his first book in collaboration with his distinguished mother, "Marion Harland," a well-known name in American homes. Mr. Terhune has written both novels and short stories and is especially successful in the latter form. Among his best stories are *Caritas, Night of*

the Dub, Quiet, and The Wildcat. In *The Wildcat* we watch with deepest interest the actions of a Southern mountaineer, who, torn from his backwoods home by the draft, was forced to adopt habits and manners and to submit to a discipline to which he was utterly foreign. The mental gropings of this young American and the manner in which he found his soul and his country make a fascinating story.

JAMES FRANCIS DWYER is an Australian by birth. Mr. Dwyer has traveled extensively as a newspaper correspondent in Australia, the South Seas, and South Africa. He came to America in 1907. He is the author of *The White Waterfall, The Bust of Lincoln, The Spotted Panther, Breath of the Jungle, and Land of the Pilgrim's Pride.*

In *The Citizen* we have a beautiful picture of the vision of freedom that came to Big Ivan in downtrodden Russia, and we see him and the gentle Anna as they follow the beckoning finger of hope across Europe and the broad ocean until, in the words of Ivan, they found a home in a land "where a muzhik is as good as a prince of the blood."

GRACE COOLIDGE is the wife of an Arapahoe Indian and has spent many years upon the Indian Reservations. She has told of her observations during these years in a charming little volume called *Teepee Neighbors.* We feel that the stories are true and they are filled with the pathos of life in the Reservations.