

**THE MAN WITHOUT
A COUNTRY**

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The Man Without a Country by Edward E. Hale

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EDWARD E. HALE

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A COUNTRY**



The Man Without A Country

BY

EDWARD E. HALE

Author of "In His Name," "Ten Times One,"
"How to Live," etc.

School Edition

WITH A NEW INTRODUCTION AND NOTES
BY THE AUTHOR

BOSTON

LITTLE, BROWN, AND COMPANY

1911

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Preface

THIS story was written in the summer of 1863. It was meant for the Americans of that day. It has since been introduced as a reading-book in schools, and it is largely used in celebrations, especially on the patriotic anniversaries. I like to be remembered by boys and girls who are going to be the leaders of the country before many years have gone by, so I am glad to be asked to tell them how the book came into existence,—indeed, to tell them what the book is for.

Let me say first, that I hope — I believe — that no one who reads this preface will live to see any such crisis as existed in the United-States when it was written. That was just about the time when General Grant was entering Vicksburg, which he had been besieging for many months; and when nearly one hundred thousand men in the Northern army fought with nearly the same number in the Southern army at Gettysburg. Now the central question which had called these armies into the field was the question whether this was a country or not. Through all the Southern States there was the impression, sometimes

careless, sometimes conscientious, that the various States of the nation were united by a treaty called the Constitution of the United-States, but that any State could cut the cord which bound them together whenever it chose. There was also a careless habit of talking about the duty which any man or woman owes to the country in which he is born. The Civil War set men and women thinking on such questions, and I wrote this book to show to boys and to girls, to men and to women, what it is to have a country. We wanted to show them what a terrible thing it would be if we had not a country. For this purpose I invented a history of the life of a young man who in a frenzy of excitement expressed a wish to live without a country and had that wish granted.

I do not think any bright boy or girl needs to have the lesson of a book for young people dissected out of it as you might cut a man's skeleton out of his body. But in talking about the book it may be well enough to say that every one of us is born into a nation called the United-States. No American boy or girl who reads these lines lived a day, even, at the beginning of his life, when he was not protected by the law of the United-States. From that moment the United-States watched over him in ways perhaps which he never thought of. Perhaps the school in

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which these words are read would not have existed except for the United-States laws with regard to education. Very likely the bread and butter which the boy had for breakfast could never have existed but that the country called the United-States had made laws and carried on government in such ways that the grain could be raised, that the cattle could be fed, and the butter made. It is in a thousand such ways as this that the country in which we live takes care of us in every hour of our lives. And as Philip Nolan says in the story, the tie which binds you and me to the country which takes care of us is a tie as real and it involves duties as distinct as the tie which binds a boy to his mother, to whom he owes his life and who has always taken care of him.

In publishing a revised edition of this book, — nearly half a century after it was written, — I omit a prophecy which proved untrue, as to the position which certain sailors and soldiers would take after the war.

I believed it true when I wrote, — and I believed it necessary. But we all rejoice when such men are as glad that they have a country as are those who opposed them in a war.

When in a school exercise the boys and girls salute the flag, they do not merely express their pride that it is a flag honored

over the world. They ought to remember that the flag represents the country to which they owe duties in every hour of their lives. All the time they are receiving blessings from that country, and all the time they have duties to that country.

EDWARD E. HALE.