

**SHORT STORIES OF  
THE NEW AMERICA**

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Short stories of the new America by Mary A. Laselle

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**MARY A. LASELLE**

**SHORT STORIES OF  
THE NEW AMERICA**



# SHORT STORIES OF THE NEW AMERICA

SELECTED AND EDITED BY  
MARY A. LASELLE

OF THE NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS, HIGH SCHOOLS



NEW YORK  
HENRY HOLT AND COMPANY

1919

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## 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 young folks 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. 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 supply the need of libraries and homes for a book of live and valuable short stories.





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## SOMETHING ABOUT THE AUTHORS AND THE STORIES

DOROTHY CANFIELD (Dorothea Frances Canfield Fisher), the author of *Home Fires in France* from which "A Little Kansas Leaven" was taken, is one of the most convincing and brilliant writers of the times. She always writes with a purpose, but as all of her work is characterized by originality, clearness, and the vital quality of human sympathy, there is not a dull line in any of her fiction or her educational writings.

*Home Fires in France* is a truthful record of Mrs. Fisher's impressions of life in tragic, devastated France during the Great War. During much of this period the author was working for the relief of those made blind by war. The tremendous appeal to America made by this book testifies to the sincerity and the genius of the author.

Dorothy Canfield was born in Lawrence, Kansas, in 1879. She obtained degrees from Ohio State University and from Columbia and studied and traveled abroad extensively, becoming an accomplished linguist. She is the author, under the name of Dorothy Canfield, of some of the most brilliant fiction of the day, *The Squirrel-Cage*, *The Bent Twig*, and other novels, and under her married name, Dorothy Canfield Fisher,