

One Man's Family
LOOKS AT LIFE



PAUL BARBOUR

Dear friend of One Man's Family:

It is a real pleasure to send you this book — a printed record of our conversation one important afternoon.

We sincerely hope that these thoughts of One Man's Family will be of help to you.

As you know, this book comes to you not only from One Man's Family, but also from the makers of Fender Leaf Tea.

When you think of one, think of the other. For Fender Leaf Tea makes it possible for One Man's Family to meet your family over the radio. Each time you buy Fender Leaf Tea you are helping us to continue on the air.

And of course you are also enjoying the very finest of tea.

Father Barbour and all the Family send their warm good wishes and join me in thanking you for your interest and loyalty.

Sincerely,
Paul



The Barbour Family

THE SCENE

Afternoon. Dark clouds have drifted in through the Golden Gate and now the sea cliff area of San Francisco is being drenched in a steady downpour. But all is snug at the Barbours. There is a crackling fire in the hearth, a gust of wood smoke when the outside door is opened, and the sudden fresh damp smell. A cut-glass bowl of red apples is on the table by the door. Teddy, with a daisy in her hand, is teasing Father Barbour, who tries his best to concentrate on his magazine. Claudia is comfortably sitting on a big, soft stool at Father Barbour's side. Jack, on the arm of the sofa, watches preoccupied, but Fanny, neat as a pin, smiles as she looks up from her sewing. Hazel standing behind the sofa, Cliff, lolling in a corner of it and Paul, looking up from his book, are all amused at the byplay between Teddy and Father Barbour.

ONE MAN'S FAMILY LOOKS AT LIFE

FANNY: (*Laughing*)

Teddy! Stop teasing Father Barbour.

PAUL:

And what's more, young lady, you have homework to do, this rainy afternoon.

TEDDY:

I was just going upstairs anyway. So there! (*She starts to leave as Nicky comes in.*)

NICKY:

Where away, Teddy?

TEDDY: (*From the door*)

Oh, I just guess I'm not *wanted!* (*All laugh*).

NICKY:

Well, it's raining as hard as ever. Beastly weather.

CLIFFORD:

Just an omen of what the world's coming to.

HENRY:

Eh—what's that?

CLIFFORD:

Physical disturbances, gloom, depression.

NICKY:

A sad world . . . raining tears.

FANNY:

What in the world are you talking about? I don't see anything wrong with the world . . . at least with our world.

NICKY:

I wish I could agree, Mother Barbour. To me things are bad and getting worse.

HENRY:

Eh . . . Nicholas, you mean it's unreasonable to suppose we can expect better things ahead?

NICKY:

Perhaps sir, you can point out a glimmer of hope. For my part, I'm inclined to believe . . .

CLAUDIA:

Well, I say it's a GOOD old world . . . and I LIKE it.

NICKY:

But there *is* trouble in the world, Claudia. And in this modern world you can't isolate yourself. What's one man's trouble is every man's trouble.

FANNY:

Except to make me sorry, why should I be affected by what's taking place in the Orient and in Europe?

HAZEL:

Yes, a lot of people are saying that, and yet you notice how they tremble in their boots every time an international incident develops.

NICKY:

It's mob hysteria. It's happened over and over. Let two men start to fight in a crowd, and what happens? Suddenly the whole crowd is angry, wanting to fight somebody . . . anybody.

HAZEL: (*Amused*)

Paul, haven't you anything to add to this?

PAUL:

I've just been thinking . . . we're on the verge of a world crisis, and here sits a typical cross section of the public.

HENRY:

Eh? Our family? What are you getting at, Paul?

PAUL:

Well, I was just wondering if we couldn't take time for each of us to discuss the thing that's closest to his heart in connection with the present world conditions.

CLAUDIA: (*Amused*)

Isn't that getting in over our heads, Paul?

PAUL:

Why is it? Almost everyone has a good thought about it, but he keeps it to himself and says, "Who am I to express an opinion on world affairs."

HAZEL: (*Amused*)

Well, you'll have to admit it DOES sound a little bit fantastic.

PAUL:

Not when you consider that every world problem has its beginning and its solution in the hearts of men.

CLAUDIA:

In the hearts of men?

PAUL:

Certainly. The future of the world lies in the hearts of men, not in some vague, complicated system of which the ordinary person has no knowledge . . . What's in your heart and what's in my heart is going to have a lot to do with what happens this coming year.



Claudia

Nicky's wife. Sister of Paul, Hazel and Jack—and Clifford's twin.

"It's a GOOD old world . . . and I LIKE it."

HAZEL:

By your heart and my heart you naturally mean each individual heart in the world.

PAUL:

Yes. So why not examine what's in the hearts of this little group here and see what's in store for us. Dad, let's begin with you. What one thing is foremost in your thoughts?

HENRY:

Why, Paul, I think "family".

PAUL:

Very well, "family". How, in your opinion, does family tie in with today's problems?

HENRY: (*Grunts*)

I don't know that I'm capable of discussing the subject intelligently.

PAUL:

At least you're capable of expressing an opinion, and you must have a very definite opinion if the subject is foremost in your consciousness.

HENRY:

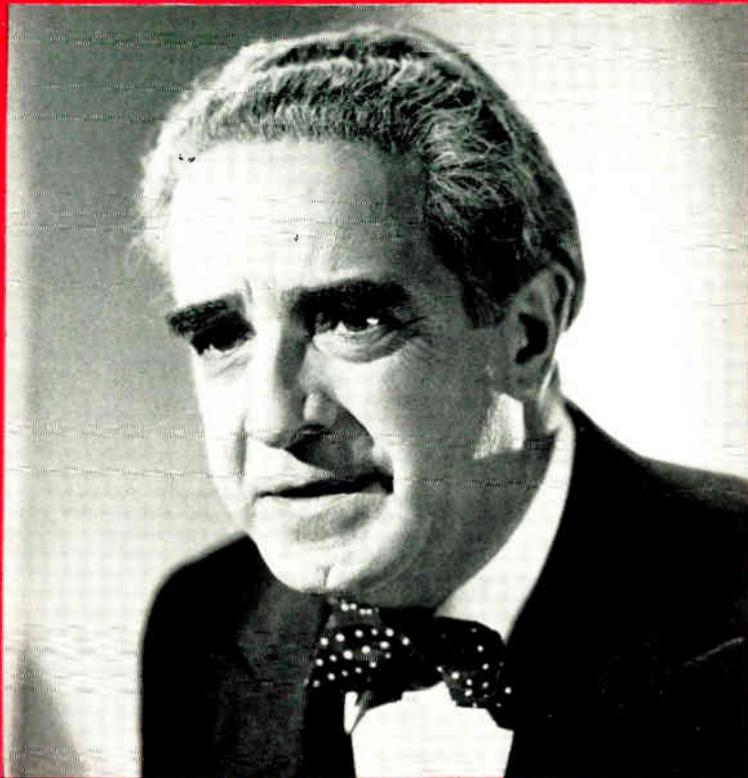
I have. To begin with, it's my opinion that the family is the source from whence comes the moral strength of a nation. And disintegration of any nation begins with the disintegration of the family. The family is the smallest unit in society. Millions and millions of these little units make a nation. And the standards of living set up by these family units indicate the high or low standards of a nation.

PAUL:

And as family life goes to pieces, so a nation goes to pieces.

HAZEL:

Then Father, it's your belief that it lies in the hands of the fathers



Father Time

Fanny's husband, Father of Paul, Hazel, Claudia, Clifford and Jack.

**"The family is the source from whence comes
the moral strength of a nation."**

and mothers of this country to either strengthen or weaken our national force?

HENRY:

I do indeed! A well disciplined, morally upright family is bound to turn out good citizens! Good citizens make a good nation.

PAUL:

No doubt about that!

JACK:

Yes, but Dad, this country and every other country is having an awful lot of trouble right now. Does that mean that family life isn't as good as it was?

HENRY:

Well, Jack, you'll find the answer to that if you look up your statistics.

JACK:

How do you mean, Dad?

HENRY:

I think you'll find that today there are more broken homes, more divorced men and women, more children without one of their parents than any time in the history of the world.

JACK:

And you think that's the cause of all the trouble in the world today?

HENRY:

It's a primary cause. The world's in confusion. Why? In my opinion it's mainly because national thought is confused. Why? Because the thoughts of the citizens of each nation are confused. Again why? Because something has happened to the individual . . . something that shakes his faith in himself and in all the established institutions he's always believed in.

HAZEL:

But what's the family got to do with that, Dad?

HENRY:

Isn't it apparent? Many of our beliefs are formed when we are young.

HAZEL:

Well, yes . . .

HENRY:

And the only unit of civilization a child comes into close contact with and can understand is family. To little Joan, the world is Claudia and Nicky, and some of us in this room. You can see that. Now supposing when you children were small, your mother and I had divorced.

HAZEL:

Oh, it's unthinkable.

PAUL:

Indeed it is. It would have rocked our little world to the very depths. It could easily have undermined the life of every one of us.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan".

Daughter of Claudia.

Speaking of her, Father Barbour says, "The only unit of civilization a child can understand is her family."



HENRY:

Certainly. And if a child's world is wrecked before his eyes, what has he to cling to? It immediately colors his conception of the whole world. Immediately his mind forms the belief that there is nothing solid, nothing stable, nothing that he can ever quite believe in, and he grows to manhood a cynical, unbelieving citizen, certain that the only law of the universe is "every man for himself".

CLAUDIA:

I see . . . and if a country's citizens believe it's every man for himself, then that nation's going to be an aggressive, belligerent country.

HENRY:

Yes, believing in the law that it's "every nation for itself".

PAUL:

I think you've stated your case very well, Dad. And your solution to the world's ills is the maintaining of a high type of family life?

HENRY:

Exactly. Bring back the old fashioned type of family built on true affection and discipline!

PAUL:

Good. Mother, what would you like to contribute to the betterment of the world?

FANNY: (*Amused*)

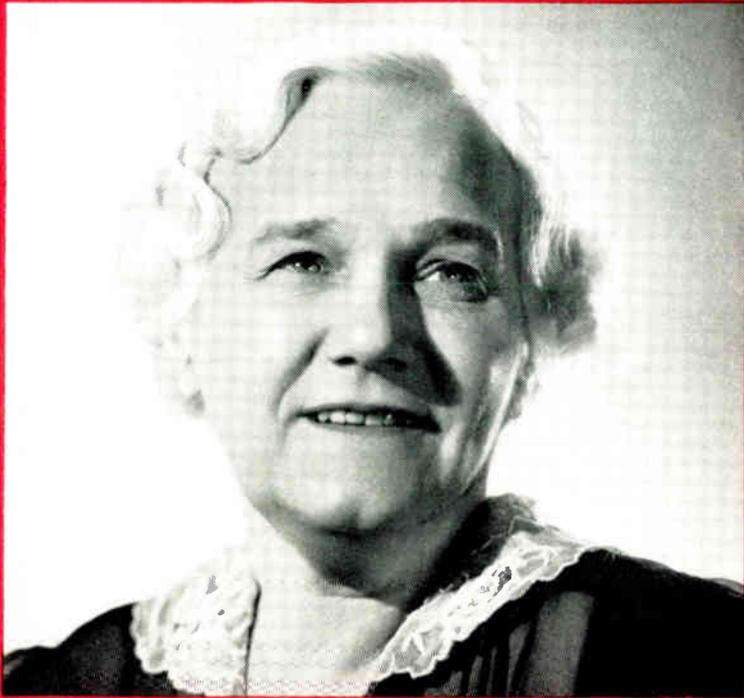
Well, naturally, being a woman, I'm interested in the woman's side of the problem.

NICKY:

And an important side it is too, Mother Barbour.

FANNY:

Assuming that what Henry has said has a basis of truth, I'm afraid



Mother Carboar

"I haven't any sympathy with this modern school of pampered wives."

the so-called "modern" woman has done a great deal to make the family what it is today.

CLAUDIA: (*Amused*)

Careful, Mom, you mustn't give us away!

FANNY:

It's my opinion we SHOULD be given away and brought up sharply. I haven't any sympathy with this modern school of pampered wives.

HAZEL: (*Amused*)

Good for you, Mom.

FANNY:

Well, I mean it. It's unhealthy and it's demoralizing.

HENRY:

What's that, Fanny?

FANNY:

Just this. It's one thing for a man to treat his wife with decency and respect and quite another for him to abandon himself to her least whim.

JACK:

But Mom, do you think that's general practice?

FANNY:

Well it's entirely too general for the good of the country.

HAZEL:

Absolutely.

FANNY:

Why, half the wives I know whimper at the least inconvenience. They feel imposed upon if they are forced to spend their time looking after their own children. They dodge responsibility, ignore duty, and dissipate a lot more than is good for them.

HENRY:

Eh? Fanny, what kind of women have you been associating with?
(*Laughter*)

FANNY:

Well, I'm not talking about bad women, if that's what you mean. I'm talking about the new generation of young wives. They're not bad and they're not without courage and honor, but they've simply been petted and humored and spoiled until they don't know anything else.

PAUL:

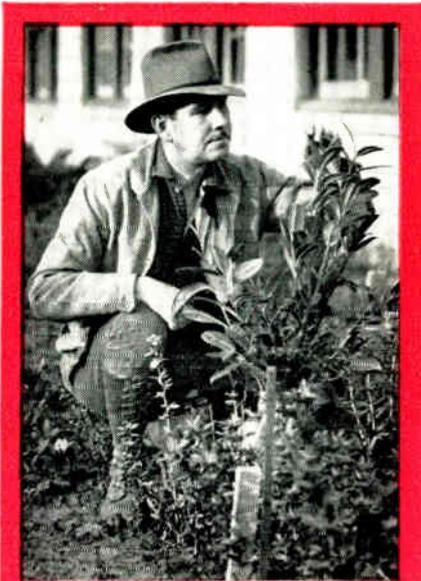
And what result has this brought about, do you think, Mom?

HAZEL:

A pretty serious one!

FANNY:

I think it's probably directly responsible for ninety percent of divorces. And in a measure it's the cause of the extravagant living the modern family insists on.



Bill

*Hazel's husband, son-in-law of
Henry and Fanny Barbour.*

**Mother Barbour says, "William
is a husband in a thousand."**

PAUL:

Now you're speaking of a tendency to live over the family budget.

FANNY:

Yes.

PAUL:

But don't you think all this is somewhat due to the men? As heads of the family they should be able to help guide and stimulate their wives' interests in healthier channels.

HAZEL: *(Laughing)*

William and I seem to get along!

FANNY:

William is a husband in a thousand!



Hazel

**"The things that mothers
taught their children
twenty years ago have
their effect on 1938."**

PAUL:

And you think the modern wife . . . as a partner . . . could do much toward easing today's burden of trouble?

FANNY:

I do indeed!

PAUL:

And your solution is?

FANNY:

Instead of being soft, petted playthings, let them take their lives in their own hands; do a little honest work; do a little serious thinking; harden the moral fibre they've been allowing to grow flabby; be honest-to-goodness wives to their honest-to-goodness husbands.

NICKY:

By Jove, I think we've got something started here . . . some real ideas being expressed.

PAUL:

Well, perhaps you'd like to offer something?

NICKY:

Not just yet. Let me listen to the others for a while.

PAUL:

All right, how about you, Hazel?

HAZEL: (*Amused*)

Well, naturally, being the mother of three children, I believe that I'm helping frame tomorrow's destiny by the way I bring up my children now.

PAUL:

But that's not going to have much effect on nineteen thirty-eight.

HAZEL:

No, but what some mother taught her child ten, twenty, or thirty years ago is going to have its effect in nineteen thirty-eight.

PAUL:

Quite true.

HAZEL:

So what I teach the twins now is going to be important, and it doesn't matter very much how soon or how late. I believe there's only one way the heart of the human race can be reached and trained—through the children of the world.

HENRY:

Exactly!

HAZEL:

If we're ever to have world peace, world security, it will be by educating the young of the race.

CLIFFORD:

Yeah—but how are you going to get other countries to do that?

Twinky

One of Hazel's twins.

Hazel says, "If each of us who believes in a better world would plant that thought in his child's mind . . . it will grow and multiply."



HAZEL:

Don't worry about the other person. If each of us who believes firmly in a better world would plant that thought in his child's mind it will grow and multiply. You say OTHER nations. Don't you think there are as many peace-loving men and women in Europe and the Orient as there are here? But just like us, they haven't succeeded in reaching their dream of a peaceful world to the more belligerent element.

NICKY:

Right you are. As right as rain!

JACK:

You mean lots of people in these other countries would like to join with us to demand peace?

HAZEL:

Of course. Do you believe the people of European or Asiatic nations enjoy hating and being hated any more than we do? Certainly not. And so my contribution to peace, security and future good is to instill

in the hearts of my babies a fundamental belief in the goodness of their fellow men, whatever their color, creed, or nationality.

HENRY:

My dear, you have a real ambition in life.

NICKY:

Jove yes!

JACK:

Mom, do you mind if I get an apple to chew on while I'm listening?

FANNY:

Of course not. That's what they're for.

CLAUDIA: (*Amused*)

I know what the next topic is going to be . . . food!

PAUL: (*Amused*)

Well, let's leave the topic up to Clifford. Cliff, take up the discussion.

CLIFFORD:

Yeah . . . okay. And the subject I want to talk about is strikes and the relationship between employer and employee.

PAUL: (*Amused*)

You've certainly picked a tough one.

CLIFFORD:

Yeah, I know. And I don't want to bring up the subject of who's right and who's wrong, because I think there's right and wrong on both sides. All I'd like to get at is, WHY is there so much dissension between labor and capital.

HENRY: (*Grunts*)

If you can answer that we'll put your statue in the public square!



Cliff

**"Workers and employers
don't understand each other.
And if you don't understand
a person you're a little sus-
picious and afraid of him."**

CLIFFORD: (*Amused*)

Thanks Dad, but I don't think I'd look well in bronze. Seriously though, it seems to me that the answer is plain enough . . . the reason for unpleasantness between worker and employer is simply a lack of understanding! They're too far apart in their points of view, and naturally if you don't understand a person you're a little suspicious and afraid of him. Everything he does you try to interpret as a move to hurt you. So you've got to find a common meeting ground. I mean a common denominator for employer and employee.

PAUL:

I think I know what you're getting at. Find something that labor and capital have in common.

CLIFFORD:

Sure . . . children for instance. Or take invasion by a foreign country. How long do you think labor and capital would be fighting among themselves if some other country started landing troops here? Not a minute. Everyone'd get in and work together like old pals. Or

there's religion. If the rich man is honest and the poor man is honest, when they get down on their knees they both pray to the same God.

CLAUDIA:

What do you mean, if they're honest?

CLIFFORD:

I mean if they're NOT sincere, and honest in their desire to solve their problems, their God is very liable to be Hate. But in that case neither one is worshipping the God he was taught to worship as a child.

HENRY:

By George, Clifford, I never heard you talk like this before!

CLIFFORD:

I don't know, maybe I'm off on the wrong foot, but I'm just giving you ideas that came to me. It goes right back to "Love Thy Neighbor" . . . "Peace on Earth" . . . and "Do Unto Others As You'd Have Them Do Unto You" . . . but why is that impossible?

PAUL:

It isn't. But there you get right back to what I said in the beginning. The answer lies within each man's heart. If each employer WANTED the good will of his men and each employee WANTED the good will of his employer, that would be the end of trouble.

HAZEL:

I think you've struck right at the heart of the whole problem. There's got to be a revival of interest in fundamentals in this country . . . a revived interest in children, that will cause mothers and fathers to go to almost ANY extremes to see that they're properly trained.

CLAUDIA:

Which would mean the end of wholesale divorces and broken homes.

HAZEL:

Naturally. If people were more interested in their children than in themselves, they couldn't POSSIBLY want a divorce. And next, Clifford's idea suggests a revival of patriotism . . . not an aggressive patriotism, but a natural pride and love of those things which are ours by birth.

PAUL:

Yes, if there's one thing that is eating at the heart of this country today, it's the tendency to deride idealism and patriotism.

NICKY:

By Jove, Paul, you're right! I'm an adopted citizen of this country, so I don't feel as free to express myself, and yet . . .

PAUL:

Don't be backward, Nicky. We understand.

NICKY:

Well, WHY are people willing to make fun of their ruling forces? Is it because those ruling forces have broken faith with the people? Perhaps, but somehow I can't find it in my heart to put the blame on those officials, because it lies within the power of the people to remove any man from office who abuses that office.

HAZEL:

But how are the people going to know?

NICKY:

Public business is public property. If the people WANT to know . . . if they are *interested* in knowing . . . they can always find out.

CLIFFORD:

But Nicky, if anyone takes up the people's cause he's immediately branded as a faddist or a reformer or some kind of a nut.

NICKY:

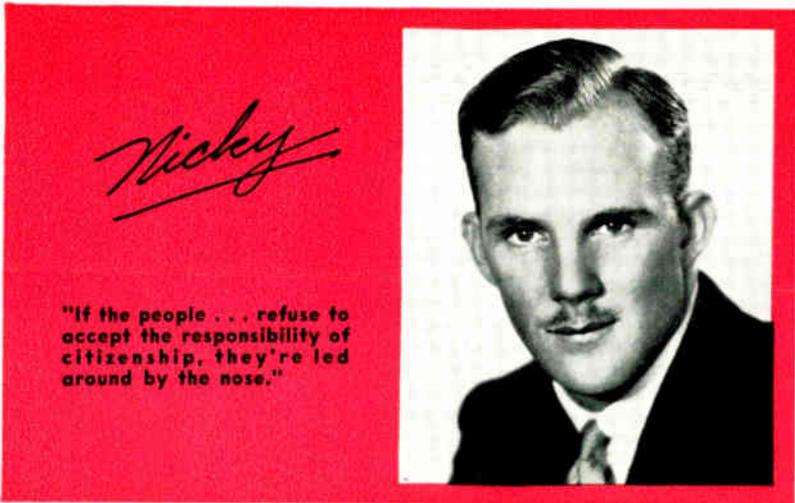
That's the people's fault, too. They've the power to select leaders they do believe in. The people are the strongest force in this country and yet if they refuse to accept the responsibility of citizenship, they can be led around by the nose. We make no end of commotion about injustice, dishonesty, and such, and yet we never raise a finger to do anything about it. When we're hurt we simply shut our eyes and yell like the deuce, and that ends it.

HAZEL:

But Nicky, we can't know what's going on in all those official departments.

NICKY:

You don't have to know. You know, or can find out, what's going on in your own home town or city or village. There's where the



"If the people . . . refuse to accept the responsibility of citizenship, they're led around by the nose."



Jack

"Everyone can do some little thing to make conditions better. And those little things added together can make all the difference in the world."

individual citizen's effort should start. Believe me, if every city in the country was properly managed, if every man we elect to public office is upright and honest . . . the very best man for the place . . . you'll have a clean, wholesome regime, all along the line. Then your national government is going to be something you're proud of!

JACK:

Like the old saying, "Take care of the pennies, and the dollars will take care of themselves." If every little part of the country is right, the *whole* country will be better.

NICKY:

Quite.

JACK:

And everyone can do some little thing to make conditions better . . . something right near by. And those little things added together can make all the difference in the world.

NICKY:

Exactly. I think that our modern democracies face more important and more complex problems today than at any other time in history. In one way or another every citizen can help solve those problems. And it's shameful that the citizens should throw every bit of THEIR job on the shoulders of men thousands of miles away. Undoubtedly

those men are doing all they can, and yet they can't HOPE to win unless the citizens rouse themselves to help.

HENRY:

Yes . . . yes . . .

NICKY:

True democracy is a great ideal! It warms me clear through to see what great things that ideal has accomplished and what may yet lie ahead. And for just that reason it makes me angry to see the people let things drift simply because they don't want to do anything about it.

CLIFFORD:

Atta boy, Nicky!

HAZEL:

And don't let's forget that other suggestion of Clifford's—a religious revival.

CLIFFORD:

Well, maybe that's putting it a little strong, Hazel.

HAZEL:

You're not backing down, are you?

CLIFFORD:

No, but "religious revival" frightens a lot of people. Couldn't we make it a revival of honesty and faith and sincerity and belief in ourselves and our fellow men?

HAZEL:

But isn't religion the expression of those very things?

CLIFFORD:

I suppose so, and yet so many people are afraid to face the word "religion".

FANNY:

Perhaps that's just the trouble.

HAZEL:

That's true enough. If you find a purse of money, you'd certainly return it, and yet you'd feel an awful fool to have your picture printed in the paper under the heading "An Honest Woman".

CLAUDIA: (*Laughs*)

That's the idea!

HAZEL: (*Amused*)

Well, Paul, everyone else has had his say . . . now what about you?

PAUL:

Well, I've done a lot of talking as we went along, but there were a couple of things that stand out in my mind . . . things that affect everyone here—and all our youngsters. They affect Teddy—and the man she may fall in love with some day. Here is what I'm thinking about! With the prospect of war and the rumors of war facing the world in 1938, I'd like to quote some figures I read recently. First in the World War, it cost \$25,000 to kill every soldier who died.

CLIFFORD:

Hey, twenty-five thousand dollars?

PAUL:

Yes, and there were sixteen million soldiers killed, which brings the cost of the World War to four hundred billion dollars.

CLIFFORD:

Them's SOME dollars, pal.

PAUL:

It's so appalling it's terrifying . . . breaking that down into some idea of what could have been done with that money, it would have bought a thirty-five hundred dollar home and five acres of land for

every family in Germany, Russia, France, Great Britain, Australia, Canada, and the United States.

CLAUDIA:

For EVERY family, Paul?

PAUL:

Wait, that's not all. It would also have built a ten million dollar university and a five million dollar library for every city over two hundred thousand in each of these countries, and given a perpetual annual salary of a thousand dollars for a hundred and twenty-five thousand teachers and a hundred and twenty-five thousand nurses.

HENRY:

Eh? A perpetual salary?

PAUL:

Yes, a salary for all time.

FANNY:

All this for what the war cost?

PAUL:

And that still isn't all. After all that there would still be billions left over.

NICKY:

Think of it!

CLAUDIA: (*Murmurs*)

And people talk about there being another World War . . . and nothing's being done about it!



Teddy

Paul's adopted daughter.

Paul says, "When I hear of war and rumors of war, I think of Teddy—and the man she may fall in love with some day."

PAUL:

Something IS being done about it. Something very definite. There's a rising tide of sentiment growing throughout the world, fostered by people who are sick over the way things are going. They're not the people of any one country or any one continent . . . they're simply all the people of all the world who believe that the only way out of this mess is to return to the simple fundamental principles each of us learned at his mother's knee.

NICKY:

I say, I like that!

PAUL:

Yes, it's part of the same thing. Your own Stanley Baldwin expressed the whole idea in his Coronation Empire speech. He said: "When we look around and consider the state of the world today, we see on every side bewilderment and doubt. There is no country but has its difficulties, no country but is faced by dangers. There is need of common effort, of resolution, of endurance; above all, there is need of leadership. The British Empire has a solemn duty to the world at this time—a duty which I have described in these words, 'Spiritual leadership'."

NICKY:

Quite! I remember that speech.

PAUL:

It's what we've all been trying to express in our own way today . . . perhaps it's the answer we've all been looking for . . . an answer in the hearts of men.

* * * *

Father Barbour nods and looks into the fire. Jack, a little self-conscious, silently gets another apple. Mother Barbour resumes her sewing. Nicky stands beside Claudia and takes her hand. Clifford and Hazel smile gently at each other. Paul rises and walks to the door. Outside the rain has stopped. Through the window, he eagerly regards the sky, and starts outdoors, looking perhaps for a rainbow—the promise of a better world to come.

THE END



Paul

"The way out of this mess is to return to the simple fundamental principles each of us learned at his mother's knee."

