

"SUCH A STORY AS NO  
OTHER COUNTRY  
POSSESSES"

MRS. JOHN RICHARD GREEN has just issued another edition, "revised and enlarged," of her husband's famous "Short History of the English People."

To-day, when the youth of this country are giving up their lives by the thousand for the defence of this dear Homeland, one cannot turn over the pages of this book which tell its story without emotion. From what a pit have we been digged; from what a rock have we been hewn! What a pageant of doing and being do these closely printed pages show!

It is to preserve the story of achievement of which this book tells so finely, so uniquely, that we do battle in Flanders to-day. Here is the charter for our action; here is the asset which we preserve; here is the story of our fight for liberty against kings and tyrants which we are merely continuing in our fight against the Kaiser.

The story here told stands out even in bolder relief in the light of the great fight for liberty which we are waging to-day. The events of the last two years have made us realise as we have never done before what it was our fathers did for us when they saved this land from the invader, and made it the home of Liberty.

We were too apt before this war to spend what they had left us without thought of what they had done for us. But as one turns the leaves of this golden record one utters thanks for all brave men who made its story, for all the patriots who kept the faith, for all the lovers of Liberty who kept its flag flying, for all the good men and tender women who lighted and tended the lamp by which we live—the light shed from the hearts of those who by their living have given life for all time to the highest conception of humanity, expressed in the glowing words, an Englishman, an Englishwoman. So exact is the meaning of those words, so glorious their value, that they are beacons to us to-day—to which we may aspire to reach, to degrade which is an infamy.

**A Great Story**

It is the story of a Growing Light in England. To-day, the Light burns brightly; to-morrow it must burn still more so. Here are our title deeds. There are dark patches on them; but they are things of which to be proud and to be unworthy of them is to sin.

"England expects every man to do his duty"; "England hath need of thee"; "England shall never lie at the proud foot of a

conqueror"; "Nought shall make us rue, if England to itself do rest but true"; "This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England." The story which makes men utter these great sayings lies within these 1,000 pages.

Our story is greater than ourselves; let us make ourselves as great as our story.

Mrs. Green's story of how her husband came to write this History is by itself enough to make one want to read it, and Green's own definition of his object increases the desire to read it again.

"I have preferred," he says, "to pass lightly and briefly over the details of foreign wars and diplomacies, the personal adventures of kings and nobles, the pomp of courts, or the intrigues of favorites, and to dwell at length on the incidents of that constitu-

tional, intellectual and social advance in which we read the history of the nation itself.

"Whatever the worth of the present work may be, I have striven throughout that it should never sink into a 'drum and trumpet' history. . . If some of the conventional figures of military and political history occupy in my pages less than the space usually given them, it is because I have had to find a place for figures little heeded in common history—the figures of the missionary, the poet, the printer, the merchant, or the philosopher."

Green ended his "Short History" with the year 1815. In this new edition Mrs. Green adds an Epilogue of 150 pages, of which the first section deals with "The Social Revolution, 1815-1914"; and the second section with "For-

eign and Colonial Policy" in the same period.

Greater changes came to England in that 100 years than in all the rest of the years of her story, and Mrs. Green's concluding words give some hint of the dangers and the great task yet before us when the war is ended.

"We are approaching," she says, "dangers foreseen by a great ruler of a free people, President Lincoln: 'It has long been a grave question whether any Government not too strong for the liberties of the people can be strong enough to maintain its existence in great emergencies.'"

"The world has yet to see," concludes Mrs. Green, "how many trials, catastrophes, and re-births lie before the peoples who are determined to discover the ultimate secret of human liberty."

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