

sponsibility of the father for the maintenance, care and education of his offspring. This view is engendered by that spirit of "paternalism" which socialistic theorists would substitute for the stern, but noble, code of individual duty. To relieve a father from the obligation of supporting his child, and to make the latter, as it were, the "ward of the state" is a mistaken policy. Whilst it has been laid down that "the interests of the child" must be the guide to the judge in awarding the custody of the infant, the law rightly assumes that in the vast majority of cases the father will have at heart "the interests of his child." The duty cast upon him of supporting his family must accompany his right to the control and custody of his children. As on him rather than on his wife is cast the obligation to maintain the children, so must he have the primary right to their custody. We must, therefore, entirely dissent from the statement as to the law on this subject in the judgment referred to, and also record a note of warning against anything which may tend unduly to weaken family ties and responsibilities.

A protest against legislation of the tendency above referred to is given in a recent issue of the *Spectator*, and from a source which merits attention as it appears in the letter of a working-man published in that excellent periodical. After exposing the objectionable nature of the socialistic fad of feeding school children he makes some general observations worth recording. "The fact that our children are altogether dependent upon us is an extra incentive to effort and we are as a consequence better workmen and better citizens in every way. If the responsibility attendant upon the maintaining of children were removed slackness in every direction would be the inevitable result. Having had to provide for a family has been many a man's salvation.

I wish my children to be my own, not partly mine and partly the state's." He then refers to another socialistic fad, the old age pension and says: "Nothing better fits a man for leading a useful life than a sense of personal responsibility, and if that be removed demoralization quickly follows. . . . If only the working classes could be persuaded to do their own thinking