

### The Thread That Runs So True

Like the air we breathe, we often take the free common school for granted without realizing that it is "the greatest discovery made by man." Comes now the adventures of a young teacher told by a born story-teller whose writing has the rugged freshness of his native Kentucky hills. It is a truly great book—the kind that comes but once in a generation, a book that will live to entertain and inspire new readers as Eggleston's **Hoosier Schoolmaster** has lived to be read decade after decade.

Each year for sometime, we have been calling attention to "the most important book," seeking to select a volume which if read by the great body of American citizens would help to build the common understanding essential to the successful operation and growth of our democratic society. As "the most important book of 1949," we name **The Thread That Runs So True** by Jesse Stuart because it is concerned with the unique institutions in American life.

**The Thread That Runs So True** is good literature. It records life throbbing with energy, aspiration, conflict, and love. It is full of suspense and vivid imagery—difficult to lay down until one has finished, the kind of a book that keeps people up beyond the usual bedtime. It appeals to a wide range of readers, young and old, city and rural, teacher and layman, the little and the much schooled.

This book is good history. It records life in our American highlands among people who still retain many of the characteristics of the original pioneers. It reveals the immense lifting power of our free public schools and tells of an experience that in various forms has been repeated on one frontier after another as our country has swept westward and forward. It should help us to understand that whatever we do in home, church, community, government, agriculture, industry, or business must begin with sound education. What would we be able to do in any of these fields if we had to start with illiterates?

The story of Lonesome Valley and other schools is good pedagogy. It shows what happens when a strong, honest, earnest, and loving personality gives himself to his students. It is good prophecy. It suggests what would happen to our country if through education we brought to full fruition the talents of all our people

### TEACHERS' SALARIES, 1947-48

Rank	State	Average Salary
(1)	California	\$3690
(2)	New York	3476
(3)	Washington	3325
(4)	Maryland	3321
(5)	Connecticut	3249
(6)	Arizona	3136
(7)	Rhode Island	3105
(8)	Massachusetts	3103
(9)	New Jersey	3102
(10)	Indiana	3073
(11)	Michigan	3020
(12)	Illinois	3016
(13)	Nevada	2988
(14)	Utah	2968
(15)	Oregon	2941
(16)	Ohio	2847
(17)	New Mexico	2741
(18)	Delaware	2642
(19)	Florida	2641
	National Average	\$2639
(20)	Pennsylvania	\$2597
(21)	Texas	2585
(22)	Montana	2582
(23)	Wisconsin	2560
(24)	Colorado	2540
(25)	Minnesota	2482
(26)	West Virginia	2364
(27)	New Hampshire	2355
(28)	Oklahoma	2277
(29)	Idaho	2239
(30)	Louisiana	2236
(31)	Kansas	2191
(32)	Wyoming	2187
(33)	North Carolina	2114
(34)	Missouri	2099
(35)	Iowa	2088
(36)	Vermont	2066
(37)	Virginia	2062
(38)	Alabama	1957
(39)	Nebraska	1919
(40)	Tennessee	1901
(41)	Kentucky	1884
(42)	South Dakota	1883
(43)	Maine	1767
(44)	South Carolina	1742
(45)	Georgia	1724
(46)	North Dakota	1665
(47)	Arkansas	1545
(48)	Mississippi	1256

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### Students Discuss Race Progress

Recently a group of students, headed by Robert Smalls, a sophomore of White Plains, New York and a senior, William McNair of Rocky Mount, conducted an assembly program that centered about the contribution the Negro people have made to recent American history.

The main address was given by Robert Smalls who spoke on the topic, "What Will Our Contribution Be?" Other speakers and topics appearing on the program included the following: Gaither Perkins, "America's Tenth Man;" William Hill, "The Negro in Education;" Irene Graham, "Out-Negro Women;" George Coburn, "The Negro in Sports;" Anthony Fleming, "The Negro in Art;" and LaVon Haithman, "The Negro in Religion."

### Are You A Good Teacher?

A superior teacher, according to 1,000 North Carolina high school seniors, is friendly, patient, kind, honest, cheerful, courteous, and has a sense of humor. These characteristics were mentioned more often by these seniors than any others.

"Knows subject" ranked second in frequency of mention by seniors, with "understands pupils" running a close third.

"Knows how to teach," "makes work interesting," and "keeps order," ranked fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively, as the marks of a good teacher, according to these seniors.

### DEGREES CONFERRED

According to a recent survey conducted by the Office of Education, Colleges and Universities in the United States conferred approximately 430,000 degrees in the year ending June 30, 1949. This is an all-time high, practically double the number granted in the prewar peak year, 1939-40. The total includes 375,000 Bachelors' or first professional degrees, and 55,000 advanced degrees.

### BE STRONG

Be strong!

We are not here to play, to dream, to drift!  
We have hard work to do and loads to lift,  
Shun not the struggle, fact it, 'tis God's gift,  
Be strong! Be strong!

Be strong!

Say not the days are evil—who's to blame?  
And fold the hands and acquiesce—O shame!  
Stand up, speak out, and bravely, in God's name.

Be strong!

It matters not how deep entrenched the wrong,  
How hard the battle goes, the day, how long;  
Faint not, fight on! Tomorrow comes the song.

—Mattbie D. Bobcock.

and what could happen to the world if most of its adults who are now illiterate could be replaced in another generation with people taught through reasonable free school opportunity to make the most of themselves and their countries. This book is sound Americanism. It exalts the aspirations and ideals by which our people have risen rapidly to national and world greatness.

**The Thread That Runs So True**, which the author has dedicated to the school teachers of America, belongs in the personal library of every teacher and prospective teacher.

—Joy Elmer Morgan.