

a friend of Sarah Orne Jewett, William James, Charles W. Eliot and Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, whose reminiscences were brought out in the *Atlantic Monthly*. He brought John Muir into the *Atlantic's* family and he accepted the first novel of Mary Johnston.

After five years of residence in Boston he decided that if he was so valuable to others he was worth more to himself as a publisher, and he joined F. N. Doubleday in founding the house of Doubleday, Page & Co. In his work in the development of this publishing house Mr. Page has spent the best years of his life. When the *World's Work* was started he was made its editor, and his comments on current subjects of importance have given the magazine a high individual character.

In all his work Mr. Page has shown not only that he is a literary man, but also that he has talent for organization and a thorough understanding of the needs of the various sections of the country. He himself minimizes the importance of his services to the country, and insists that more credit is due to the men who were actually concerned in the forwarding of the various movements which he encouraged in all his writings. But it cannot be denied that Mr. Page through his writings and lectures on reconstruction and education in the South, has done much to bring about the present situation.

He is a member of the General Education Board, and has been from its beginning. He has taken keen interest in its campaigns to aid the Southern farmer, to establish country schools and to organize country life. He is also a member of the Southern Education Board and of other boards interested in the building of rural schools for negro children. As a member of the Sanitary Commission for Eradicating the Hookworm and in his extensive writings on this Southern danger he has done much valuable work. It is said that he is largely responsible for calling the attention of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., to the hookworm peril and obtaining his aid in fighting it.

It may seem strange to many that Mr. Page was chosen to fill the important post of Ambassador to England, though he has never occupied any political office. The nearest he ever came to a political office was when he served on Roosevelt's unpaid Country Life Commission. He has known President Wilson for many years and was one of the first to see in him the qualities of a great national leader.

Mr. Page is a quiet, unassuming man, leads a very modest life and shuns publicity. It is only his keen interest in the welfare of the people that has led him into activities which have made him a public figure. In late years he has enjoyed a good but not a large income. He is fonder of the poets than of business, yet he has undisputed ability.

In spite of statements that have appeared in regard to his plans as Ambassador, Mr. Page denies that he has made any whatever. When seen in his office in Garden City, where the Doubleday, Page & Co. plant is located and where he lives, he declared that such statements were not founded on fact.

"Now that I have been thrown on the screen for a moment," he said, "speculation has been rife as to the facts of my life and my future movements. The fact is, however, that I really have no plans. Besides, it would be very unwise for me to make my statements at the present time. You see, I am not yet Ambassador. Several formalities must still be gone through."

"Furthermore, it is one of the invariable traditions of the office of the Ambassador not to talk. His special field is prompt action when necessary. So it would be tactless of me to discuss any aspect of the appointment just now."

More than this Mr. Page would not say. It is easy to see, however, from his character and his family's mode of life that the London embassy will not be conducted on the same lavish scale as it was in the time of the late Ambassador Reid. Mrs. Page is known to be a woman of modest tastes and to possess the preferences of the typical educated American woman. She is not fond of society in the sense of display and is very much devoted to the conduct of her household.

A few quotations from the writings and speeches of Mr. Page will prove timely and will throw some light on his aims and ideals. The first quotation is especially interesting in the light of his recent appointment:

"The only advantage that Americans have over their kinsmen of the Old World is the advantage of free democratic training. We are no more capable by nature than the English, and we are not as well trained as the Germans, but we have greater social mobility, which is the very essence of democratic training. We have built a type of society that permits more men to find their natural place in it. And thus it is that the greatest contribution to social science, to the science of training men and of building States, is the demonstration that we have made of the ever recreative and ever renewing quality of democratic society."

"The whole American people is a good master to serve. But any sect or section or party of them would be a tyrannical master."

"Great changes come as silently as the seasons. I am no more sure of this springtime than I am of the rejuvenation of our society and the lifting up of our life."

"The most sacred thing in the Commonwealth and to the Commonwealth is the child, whether it be your child or the child of the dull faced mother of the hovel. The child of the dull faced mother may for all you know be the most capable child in the State. At its worst it is capable of good citizenship and a useful life if its intelligence be quickened and trained. Several of the strongest personalities that were born in North Carolina were men whose very fathers were unknown. We have all known two such who held high places in Church and State. President Eliot said a little while ago that the ablest man that he had known in many years' connection with Harvard University was the son of

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