

MAY 13, 1917

IN TIME OF WAR

By Thomas Faed



By LOUISE JAMES BARGELT.

"In Time of War," by Thomas Faed, R. A. (1826-1900.)  
Now hanging in the Walker Art gallery, Liverpool.

**F** AED'S understanding of the human heart was deep. In his early youth he had lived close to the Scottish peasantry and knew from intimacy with them of their meager chances for joy and their vast possibilities for woe. His first real success was through an emotionally rendered canvas which he called "Mitherless Bairns" and throughout his lifetime of artistic endeavor he accented the humbler, sadder notes of existence.

Such scenes as this which the painting depicts were tragically common when Faed painted. Today, two generations later, they are being enacted the world over. The sun in its journeyings never ceases to gaze upon a myriad of such homes.

Stark desolation rests on the face of the woman. She is alone with her children. The father of them has gone. Somewhere he is fighting. But where he is or whether he will ever return she does not know. From the look in her eyes, he is, on the instant, dead to her in her fears. Only her children sleep on, unconscious of wars and deaths and cataclysmic changes. In her arms nestles the new baby, the baby he has never seen. Something of the father she feels as she holds the babe close. He may never return, that man of her life. But his children are her children.

The room is softly colored in tans and browns. Multiple details are brought out in the light which streams down from overhead. By the woman's side waits a small dog. Agog with dumb, animal hope, he is expecting his master's return any moment. No telling what instant will bring with it that loved footstep's approach.

While domestic scenes and human emotions occupied Faed for the most part he was also fond of Scotland's outdoor life and none of the beauty of the open was ever lost on him. He was only 16 when he entered the Trustees' Academy under Sir William Allen and at 23 was elected associate member. Five years later he was made royal academician and enjoyed a long life of artistic successes.

This painting has been chosen as one particularly fitting to be brought out on Mother's day. For hundreds of years motherhood has been immortalized by poets and painters and singers of songs. Now in this twentieth century it is being paid practical tribute, not only in our country but in many of the countries of Europe. Today the churches in many lands are holding special services and the white carnation, the flower of the mothers, is being widely worn.

To a Miss Jarvis of Philadelphia belongs the credit of originating this idea. Her city was the first one to celebrate the second Sunday in May, in 1908. Since that time the date has become international.

Another famous painting will be reproduced next Sunday.