

# The HOUSEHOLD MAGAZINE

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## THINGS

*Joshua Temple's children meet to divide the furniture in the old house, and each reveals himself as he really is*

By MILDRED WASSON

*Illustrated by William Reusswig*

JOSHUA TEMPLE'S will had been probated just a year before, when Henry, the eldest son, announced that the old house could now be entered by the family and the Things distributed. Henry had been made sole executor, which had been a blow to James, the second son, who in his private opinion and in his wife's rather generally expressed opinion, should have acted with his brother. However, there had been not one word of criticism concerning Henry's conduct in discharge of his duty, other than a mild impatience that he had set a year as the time for the old house to stand untenanted and undemolished.

The outstanding bills had been paid long ago and

there were no creditors. Joshua Temple's affairs had been as clean-cut as his life and as freshly washed as his pink and white complexion. At eighty-six he had preserved a smooth, ruddy skin and a snapping blue eye. Those who wondered that no one of the boys had been named for his father did not know that in Joshua

Temple's forgivable self-appreciation he admitted to no possibility that there could ever be another Joshua Temple.

He expressed that feeling in a measure when he gave the boys no middle names. Thus, Henry, James, George, and Eustace Temple had a chance to make themselves individual, independent of qualifying tag names. Perhaps they succeeded, but with the passing of Joshua there swept away a mighty wave of personality. The following waves, as is apt to be the case, were not so towering, reached their crests not so far inshore, nor receded with so engulfing a roar.

So strong and enduring was Joshua that he outlived

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THINGS, the Story of Many a Family,  
by MILDRED WASSON

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