

BEWARE

My

**Brother**

FORBES

by JESSIE BURNHAM



# BEWARE My Brother FORBES

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I remember vividly one Sunday while Forbes and I were studying and the rest of the family either resting or relaxing; a religious programme "BRINGING CHRIST TO THE NATION" was on the radio. The preacher was so enthusiastic that he shouted himself almost breathless. It was indeed disturbing to anyone studying. Forbes told me to switch off the radio.

I complied.

Mother a few minutes later queried about the sudden halt in the programme. Forbes replied quickly, "Jessie turned off the radio." Forthwith, I had to defend myself and state my case. The same attitude is still there. "I plan, others implement."

Mother was a religious woman with strict ideas on morals and proper conduct. She used to speak often about the importance of honesty and the worth of good character.

Often, especially as he grew older, I would catch mother watching Forbes with a worried eye. I knew she was concerned about him, about an apparent change generally. When he left for studies in England, her fears about the kind of man he was becoming deepened.

I couldn't see it at the time. Forbes and I were very close. As brother and sister, we shared many, many good times and confidences. I was not old enough to understand or appreciate what was happening in his life and character.

But I know now.

I have watched this brilliant brother use his brain to scheme, to plot to put friend against friend, neighbour against neighbour, and relative against relative. I have watched him use this one and that one, and then quickly discard them when they have served their purpose. *I have watched him, with his clever wit and charm, manipulate people like puppets on a string.*

All this I have seen. But up to now, I must repeat, I **HAVE BEEN SILENT**. After all, I told myself, he is my brother.

But I can be silent no longer.

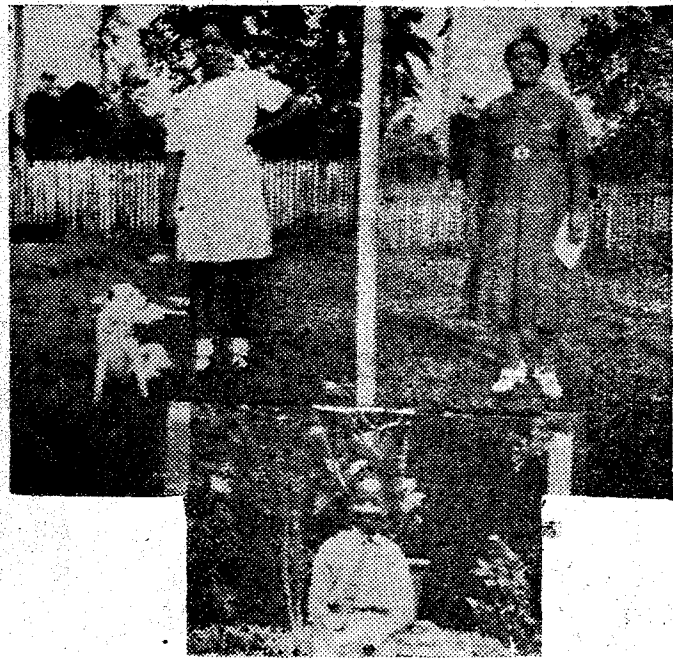
For today, I fear for my country and my people should my BROTHER become PREMIER or PRIME MINISTER. It is from this fear, this concern, that I speak.

BEWARE, I say, "MY BROTHER, FORBES." His motto is, the personal ends of power justify ANY means used to achieve them. His bible is *The Prince* by Machiavelli. And we the people should he come to power will be only pawns in his endless game of self-advancement.

Make no mistake about it, the attraction of political life for Forbes is the attainment of the power and the glory. The number of times he has ignored the offer of a coalition supports this. And I know from personal experience what I am talking about.

It was not always so.

Forbes and I grew up in the family home at 4, Pike Street, Kitty. Our father was head-teacher at the Kitty Methodist School for 37 years as well as a member of the Village Council and lay reader in the Methodist Church for about 51 years.



Myself, Mother and Forbes

