

## PREFACE.

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In view of the abundant provision apparently made for the literary needs of the little ones of today, the statement that there is a real lack of suitable stories for children may, to many, seem surprising; yet I believe that those to whom a constant supply of stories of the right kind is a necessity will not dispute its correctness.

The ideal child's story should, I have thought, be couched in such language as to make the constant interpretation of elders unnecessary; it should be lively and interesting, yet free from sensationalism or wildly improbable incidents; it should help to kind and noble living without being oppressively "goody goody," or the vehicle of narrow sectarian teaching. Furthermore, it should not be filled with the remarks and reflections of grown people, but should truly mirror the life of children, not depicting them as being the suns and centres of existence, but as happily occupying the natural position of loving dependence on and submission to their elders. It should not glorify mischief, present morbid conditions