

## FOREWORD

The writer of this little booklet lays claim to neither literary nor poetical ability. Her object is to interpret in some degree the child's soul.

If her little book is successful in shedding a gleam of light on the study of this—the most wonderful and complex of God's Creations, if it leads one person to examine into the conditions which yearly claim thousands of children to death and crime she will be amply repaid.

There are no children more mis-understood or more cursed by circumstances than children of the poor. Yet no class of children is more interesting. They are as a whole intelligent, resourceful and ambitious; for these little ones, from the cradle to the grave, life means a battle against adverse social conditions.

Poverty claims them at birth, pursues them relentlessly through life, denies them leisure either for play or growth. It deprives them of pure food, water, airy clean homes, suitable clothes, education and amusements, what wonder that a few children fall victims of our mis-management! We should consider it a miracle that more do not!

Most of these stories are taken direct from life.

God has distributed his gifts impartially, he has made no one section of the community more noble, more virtuous, more intelligent than another section. He has made man in His image potentially good.

It is man, not God who has created class distinctions; has created rich and poor, learned and ignorant. Man through his love of power and greed for gold has created poverty (the worst of all crimes) and through the unequal distribution of wealth he has compelled unequal opportunity