

THE KINDERGARTEN OF THE CHURCH

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The Kindergarten of the Church by Mary J. Chisholm Foster

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MARY J. CHISHOLM FOSTER

**THE KINDERGARTEN
OF THE CHURCH**

The Kindergarten of the Church

By

Mary J. Chisholm Foster



NEW YORK: EATON & MAINS
CINCINNATI: JENNINGS & GRAHAM

TO
MY DEAR MOTHER,
WHOSE LOVING GUIDANCE DIRECTED MY CHILDHOOD; WHOSE
PRINCIPLES AND COMPANIONSHIP STIMULATE ME NOW,
AS IN THE PAST, IN MY PHYSICAL, INTELLEC-
TUAL, AND SPIRITUAL LIFE, LEADING
ME TO THE THEORIES HEREIN
PRESENTED; AND TO
THE DEAR LITTLE CHILDREN
OF THE FIRST KINDERGARTEN OF THE CHURCH,
I DEDICATE THIS BOOK.

AUTHOR'S NOTE.

TO the valuable works, *Froebel's Life and Letters*, by Arnold H. Heinemann, and *Froebel and Education Through Self-Activity*, by H. Courthope Bowen, M.A., formerly head master of Grocers' Company's Schools, Hackney Downs, and lately a lecturer at Cambridge, on Theory of Education, I am indebted for much information, especially upon the part historical of the kindergarten. I wish to acknowledge my great obligation to these writers. The books named would be of value to all parents, pastors, and teachers, and would prepare them to read Froebel's *Education of Man* with greater interest.

PREFACE.

THOSE who are seeking the best methods for developing and unfolding the mind of the child will find these pages more suggestive than exhaustive. The importance and possibility of light upon this subject will incite investigation, and will stimulate a more definite and practical study of the Bible. Many quotations are introduced directly and credited, because of an honest opinion that, as some of them have had for many years an influence, more or less direct, upon the author's life and work, she prefers that they appear to the reader in their original garb, for they clothe great ideas with scholarly attire, and the best modern dress at her command could not so well fit them. Such beauty of expression has been used by artists of the pen, as well as by artists of the brush and of the clavichord, that these expressions seem sacred.

One who reads the fragmentary quotations may have a desire awakened to know more of the writers and of their books ; if so, a service has been rendered him.

The first public utterance of these ideas the writer gave in an address before a convention of Sunday school workers in Lowell, Mass., in 1882, which address was published in Boston at that time. During these years the importance and magnitude of the work has been more and more apparent, and the ideas call loudly for a more emphatic expression and to a larger public ; hence this volume, after many pressing solicitations to extend helpful, loving hands to the little children of the Church of God, has been undertaken in a larger faith and for a wider purpose ; and this in the spirit of a tender Saviour, who came "not to be ministered unto, but to minister."

MARY J. CHISHOLM FOSTER.

P. S.—Three days after this Preface was written and laid with the manuscripts, while dusting the books in our library, I opened a book aimlessly and read upon the fly leaf a quotation which is so in accord with the above

that I insert it, though I may, in so doing, violate the conventional law of bookmaking by adding a postscript to a Preface :

“It is a foolish desire which has prevailed among some writers of treatises on rhetoric to define nothing in the same terms that another has already employed. I shall say not what I shall invent, but what I shall approve, since, when the best definition is found, he who seeks for another must seek for a worse.”—
Quintilian. M. J. C. F.

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