

**BEGINNINGS: ACCORDING
TO THE LEGENDS AND
ACCORDING TO THE TRUER
STORY**

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Beginnings: According to the Legends and According to the Truer Story by Allen Walton Gould

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ALLEN WALTON GOULD

**BEGINNINGS: ACCORDING
TO THE LEGENDS AND
ACCORDING TO THE TRUER
STORY**

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Ye whose hearts are fresh and simple,
Who have faith in God and Nature,
Who believe, that in all ages
Every human heart is human,
That in even savage bosoms
There are longings, yearnings, 'strivings
For the good they comprehend not,
That the feeble hands and helpless,
Groping blindly in the darkness,
Touch God's right hand in the darkness,
And are lifted up and strengthened;—
Listen to these simple stories!

Longfellow, Hiowatha.

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Preface.

This little volume of "Beginnings" was originally undertaken by HENRY DOTY MAXSON, of Menominee, Wisconsin. Systematic and scholarly, he could not have failed to give us an excellent manual, had his work not been interrupted by his untimely and lamented death. When I was asked to edit the book, it was supposed his shorthand notes would contain the desired supplement to his printed lesson-slips, which were quite inadequate for a permanent work, though valuable for hints and suggestions. But it was found, after Mrs. Blake had kindly translated the notes, that they contained nothing of value beyond the material already used in the slips.

Therefore the book had to be made rather than edited; and as Mr. Maxson's views and mine had differed fundamentally on many of the subjects, it was thought best that the work should be done by me in my own way, using my material and arrangement. How much I owe to Mr. Maxson's printed lessons can be easily seen by comparing them with this work. I owe far more, however, to Mr. Gannett's carefully prepared notes, which were generously entrusted to me, and still more to his criticisms and suggestions, and his cordial encouragement. But he is in no way responsible for any of the opinions in the book.

It is perhaps too early in the study of primitive thought, as embodied in custom and myth, to produce a satisfactory handbook that should treat the subject systematically and contain material enough to make the pupil independent of any other works; yet that has been my aim, however far I may have fallen short of it. For it seems to me of little use to give girls and boys a lot of references to other books, especially in a subject so inchoate as this. It would merely confuse them.

But for the teachers, however, a few references have been added to each lesson; and at the end of the Contents a short list of books, which seemed helpful, is given, the better and best of them being starred. The questions also at the end of each lesson are chiefly for the teachers and are intended to bring out the side light of the topics

PREFACE

and link the lesson to the life of the student.

I have not tried to develop the side of my subject referring to the physical sciences. Those sciences are so popular that the markets are full of excellent manuals, and the magazines of excellent articles, on them. But works on the mythical and legendary side are few and—to me—unsatisfactory. Therefore I have developed that side more fully, trying to show how no custom or belief of the past is without its reasons and how those reasons are always groping in the direction of religion. If this little work helps to convince the world that our early ancestors were, in their degree, rational and religious beings and not the blind slaves of their language and their superstitions, I shall feel amply repaid for the labor I have put upon it.

A. W. GOULD.

Hinsdale, Ill., August 1, 1893.

Preface to the Second Edition.

The call for another edition of "BEGINNINGS" has enabled me to correct some of the faults of the first edition. A friend, who teaches biology on the Pacific coast, has kindly pointed out several places where the language could be more exact and unambiguous, and on pages 43 and 79 such changes have been made in the plates. A similar change on page 41, too long to be put into the plates, is given here. The fuller and more scientifically correct statement would be as follows: "But these single-celled plants and animals were subject to variations, and those individuals that took advantage of favorable variations became the ancestors of higher forms. The offspring of these higher forms varied and the ones possessing advantageous variations in time gave rise to still higher forms. The process went slowly on, each generation giving rise to something higher and better. From the one-celled animals developed Hydras; from these worms; from the worms the lower vertebrates; and so on up to man." Thanks are due to this friend and to all who have kindly sent me their suggestions. The rapid sale of the book and its republication in England seem to show that it supplies a wide-felt want, and I trust that these changes and the added index may make it still more useful.

A. W. G.

Chicago, September, 1894.

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These outlines can be used on the blackboard and in the class. There are Questions to talk over, Notes and References, and Hints for Children at the end of each chapter, and an index of names and topics at the end of the book.

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