

**FINGERPOSTS TO
CHILDREN'S
READING**

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Fingerposts to Children's Reading by Walter Taylor Field

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WALTER TAYLOR FIELD

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**BY
WALTER TAYLOR FIELD**

FOURTH EDITION



**CHICAGO
A. C. McCLURG & CO.
1908**

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PREFACE

THESSE essays on various phases of children's reading are addressed to parents and teachers, librarians, Sunday-school workers,— all who are concerned with the education of the child and who are interested in the enlargement and enrichment of his life.

No one who knows and loves children can fail to appreciate the influence which noble thoughts and high ideals exercise upon the unfolding character,— and no one who knows good literature can fail to realize the wealth of joy and beauty which it holds in store for the young.

The problem is to introduce the child to the great writers through their simpler works — letting him approach them at the level of his own intelligence and grow with them, assimilating more and more as his years increase, until he has reached the fulness of appreciation which marks the cultured man or woman. To awaken a genuine love for good books is to insure the development of both the æsthetic

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PREFACE

and the moral natures. If the present volume shall lead indirectly to such an awakening in the heart of any child, it will not have been written in vain.

The substance of several of the chapters has already appeared in "The Dial" and in "The Congregationalist." Parts of Chapters I and II, originally published in "The Dial," were afterwards reprinted in pamphlet form by Messrs. Ginn and Company under the title, "Children's Books: their Selection and their Influence." Acknowledgment is made to the publishers of the above-named journals for permission to include this material in the present volume; also to Mr. George A. Plimpton for data regarding the history of school readers in America. Dr. R. R. Reeder's admirable paper on "The Development of School Reading Books," and Mr. W. H. Whitmore's introduction to the reprint of Isaiah Thomas's edition of Mother Goose, have furnished suggestions for the historical portions of the work.

W. T. F.

CHICAGO, *January 1, 1907.*

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