# CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM

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Children of the kingdom by Mary Adelaide Garnett

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### MARY ADELAIDE GARNETT

# CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM





"The little ones of His Kingdom."

## Children of the Kingdom

Mary Adelaide Garnett
(Beatrice Fernekces)



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♣ JOHN CARDINAL FARLEY,

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# Dedicated to MARY, MOTHER OF GOD and QUEEN OF ALL SAINTS



#### Foreword

In these days of early First Communions, it is well to place before the child mental pictures of those whom the Church honors as childhood's saints. The main outlines in the lives of these Children of the Kingdom are true. The setting alone is fanciful, throwing the picture into bolder relief. It has been attempted to write the stories just as they have been told to hundreds of eager boy and girl listeners.

As types of holiness the little saints are not at all beyond the imitation of the average child of to-day. Sometimes I have put on the lips of a martyr the very words of children I have known and loved. The boys and girls of the present generation are as deeply loyal, as truly loving, as were the saints of long ago. There is a veneer of worldliness, it cannot be denied,

over the hearts of very many of God's little ones, caused in great part by ignorance of the lovableness of Christ and His friends, or cloaking a very real piety that they are ashamed to show. There are enemies to be met now as mighty as the foes of old, and all the more dangerous because they are hidden. To meet them well, and to be victors in the conflict, the child soldier of Christ to-day needs the high courage and stainless nobility of God's martyrs.

When, if not in childhood, can the ideals of Christ's kingdom be infused? To unspoiled souls there are no mysteries. Faith is made vision to the pure in heart. They peer into the dim stable of Bethlehem, and with eager love long to shield the Baby-God from the cold winds of the hill. They watch the Boy-Christ as He treads the narrow streets of Nazareth, and listen to the miracles of the Master with misty eyes, in imagination kneeling at His feet, with the crowds of old holding fast His robe. In childhood the seeds of solid