

**AIDS TO FAMILY
GOVERNMENT, OR, FROM
THE CRADLE TO THE SCHOOL,
ACCORDING TO FROEBEL**

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Aids to family government, or, From the cradle to the school, according to Froebel by Bertha Meyer

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BERTHA MEYER

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FRIEDRICH FROEBEL.

AIDS TO
FAMILY GOVERNMENT;
OR,
FROM THE CRADLE TO THE SCHOOL,
ACCORDING TO FROEBEL.

By BERTHA MEYER.

TRANSLATED FROM THE SECOND GERMAN EDITION BY

M. L. HOLBROOK, M.D.

TO WHICH HAS BEEN ADDED AN ESSAY ON

THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

AND

THE TRUE PRINCIPLES OF FAMILY GOVERNMENT,

By HERBERT SPENCER.

Motto. "COME, LET US FOR OUR CHILDREN LIVE."

NEW YORK:
M. L. HOLBROOK & CO.

1879.

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M. L. HOLBROOK, M. D.
1877.

PREFACE TO THE TRANSLATION.

I HERE offer to the English speaking public a translation of the most widely known and popular treatise upon the early training of children that has appeared in Germany during the present generation. The author, Mrs. Bertha Meyer, has devoted herself with an intelligent enthusiasm to the promotion of popular culture, and her high social position has afforded her opportunities for realizing her plans such as few women enjoy, while her fervid eloquence as a writer has given her rank among the noblest teachers of mankind. Guided by the more elaborate writings of Jean Paul Richter and Friedrich Froebel, she has popularized the theories of child-life presented by these great masters, and has applied them in a manner of which a woman—a mother—is alone capable. As her name is now honored by mothers throughout Germany, I could desire no higher reward for the pleasant labor of this translation than to see it equally honored and her noble work equally productive of good in our own country.

M. I. H.

NEW YORK, Oct. 1st, 1878.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND GERMAN EDITION.

THE following book has found many kind and indulgent friends ; it has been received by mothers with favor ; indeed has been made a part of the family and household treasures by many, so that they go to it as a friend and counsellor when disquieted by doubt and uncertainty. The wish has been expressed to us orally as well as by numerous letters that it might find a wider circulation and be accessible to every mother in every position in society. Therefore the publisher has been moved to prepare a new and cheap edition which can be purchased by every family having the desire to learn from the experience of others, so that instead of subjecting each child to a special experiment they may first form an intelligent opinion as to the best means of aiding it in its full developement.

The first source of these leaves was the author's desire to be a counsellor and help to her own children when the mother's eye could no longer watch over them. If they are destined to go out to a wider circle and it is permitted to them to speak words of consolation to only one mother in a hundred, in the hour of anxiety to stand by her, in the moment of doubt to aid her in finding the correct solution of the nature and disposition of her child ; if in homes filled with care for the bodily welfare of her darling, they are permitted to be a quiet, helpful adviser, then will they have

fulfilled their mission. And richly then will the pen be rewarded which has so joyously moved for childhood out of which the new race originates, for the young mother and for parents whose high destiny it is to be the builders and educators of the future race. So go, little book, as in love thou hast been written, and excite and nourish love in the parental as in the childish heart.

BERTHA MEYER.

BERLIN, Oct. 1876

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