THE FIRST FLAG, AND OTHER PATRIOTIC PLAYS AND EXERCISES, FOR CHILDREN FROM EIGHT TO FIFTEEN YEARS

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The First Flag, And Other Patriotic Plays and Exercises, for Children from Eight to Fifteen Years by Various

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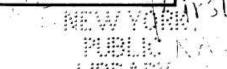
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PLAYS AND EXERCISES

THE FIRST FLAG

BERTHA E. BUSH

A dear little lady sat ¹ in her chair, In her Quaker suit of gray, When there came a knocking ² at the door, On a long-ago June day.

She rose ³ from her seat, and she opened the door,
And she courtesied ⁴ very low,
For Washington stood there, hat in hand, ⁵
On that June day long ago.

"O Mistress Betsy Ross," he said, 6
With a bow polite as could be,
"Will you not make a bonny flag
For our country and for me?"

"I'll make you the finest flag I can,⁷
Of red, and white, and blue."
She threaded her needles, and cut her cloth,⁸
O every stripe was true!

8 PATRIOTIC PLAYS AND EXERCISES

Each pointed star was just exact;
The seams would never fray.
"'Tis a well-made flag," said quaint Betsy Ross,9
On that long-ago summer day.

And the soldiers shouted and tossed their caps, 10

- And the women waved kerchiefs too, 11

As the first flag floated on the air,

With its red, and white, and blue.

MOTIONS

- 1 Girls sit very primly at desks with hands crossed on laps.
 - 2 Boys knock on desks.
 - 3 Boys and girls stand and turn to face each other.
 - 4 Girls courtesy to boys.
 - 5 Boys remove imaginary hats and bow low.
 - 6 Boys speak.
 - 7 Girls speak and courtesy.
- 8 Girls are seated and go through motions of cutting cloth, threading needles, folding and cutting stars, and basting them on, measuring and sewing stripes, and so on. Boys watch them respectfully.
- 9 Girls speak as they make believe fold up their work and give it to the boys. Boys bow and girls courtesy in return.
 - 10 Boys wave caps.
- 11 Girls wave handkerchiefs. Meanwhile a flag is carried to the front and held up. All salute the flag and join in singing a patriotic song.