

RAINBOWS FOR CHILDREN

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Rainbows for hildren by L. Maria Child

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L. MARIA CHILD

**RAINBOWS
FOR CHILDREN**

RAINBOWS FOR CHILDREN.

I CANNOT SING SO SWEET A SONG
AS WITH THE RIVER FLOWED ALONG;
BUT IN THESE TALES I TELL TO THEE
WHAT WOODS AND WATERS WHISPERED ME.

RAINBOWS FOR CHILDREN.

EDITED BY

L. MARIA CHILD.

WITH TWENTY-EIGHT ILLUSTRATIONS.



BOSTON:
TICKNOR AND FIELDS.
1868.

Nov 12 1886



Julius R. Washfield

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P R E F A C E .

I WISH these Fairy-stories were written by myself; but they are not. The author merely intended them for the private amusement of a few juvenile relatives; but the MS. accidentally met my eye, and I was so charmed with the freshness and beauty of the stories, that I begged permission to publish them.

Their liveliness and simplicity will, I am sure, render them great favorites with children, while more mature minds will often perceive a wise significance within the poetic beauty of the style.

Thus in Fiamma, or the Vase of Golden Water, eyesight is restored at home by first carrying a web of light all round the world. In the Crystal Palace, whoever hopefully plants flowers, or tenderly feeds birds, helps some other soul, who, through tangled woods, is seeking for the palace. Little Gertrude finds no joy while she roams about

P R E F A C E.

merely to amuse herself; but when she keeps diligently at work, the spinning-wheel becomes musical; and when she persuades all the people to do their share of the spinning, there remain no poor women shut up in dark huts, and sentenced to perpetual toil. Thus does the spirit of hopeful progress diffuse itself through all departments of literature, and even the fairy-wand points to a happier state of society.

If the book pleases others as it pleases me, it will be very popular. I commend it to children, with a feeling of certainty that they will enjoy it much; for they and I rarely differ in opinion.

I wish them all a merry Christmas and a happy New-Year, and remain always their affectionate friend,

L. MARIA CHILD.

P. S.—No expense has been spared to render the embellishments worthy of the volume. Twenty-eight original sketches have been neatly designed by Mr. S. WALLIN, of City Hall Place; and Mr. B. F. CHILDS has proved himself on this, as on other occasions, one of our very best wood-engravers.