

**MARCHING
MANWARD: A
STUDY OF THE BOY**

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Marching Manward: A Study of the Boy by Frank Orman Beck

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FRANK ORMAN BECK

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A STUDY OF THE BOY

BY
FRANK ORMAN BECK



NEW YORK: EATON & MAINS
CINCINNATI: JENNINGS & GRAHAM

1912

TO HER
WHO WAS BOTH
COMRADE AND GUIDE
TO THREE BOYS
AS THEY WERE
MARCHING MANWARD
MY MOTHER

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A FOREWORD

THIS is the first age that has a worthy literature upon this important theme. In 1868 a well-known Scottish author wrote, "There are plenty of essays, tracts, pamphlets, stories, poems, remarks, theories, strictures, sneers, and so forth, on the important subject of boys, but not one learned, authentic, entire volume, solely and simply treating of boy." It is different to-day. During the last decade there has sprung up a veritable forest of books, treating every aspect of the boy's life.

In this forest of books there are, however, few giant trees. The overtowering ones have ministered largely to a distinct and limited class of readers and workers. Their treatment of the subject has been largely from the standpoint of the extreme specialist. "Adolescence," "The Town Boy," "Trades for Boys," and "The Boy and the Church," are illustrations of the range and treatment of the best books. It will be the purpose of these pages to set forth a somewhat broad survey, with rather brief treatment. Its plea for justice for the

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boy, it offers first at the bar of the home and the church, and then to all who love him and would come to serve him better.

The aim of this book is missionary. It is intended to be a plea for the boy, not simply a chronicle of his doings. Writing upon a missionary theme is never a trivial task. Has the writer any credentials for a task so serious and so important?

Not many years ago he was a boy himself, and, as Huxley says about the cray fish, one must have been a boy to know just "how it feels." To-day he finds that Andrew Lang's characterization of Charles Kingsley, "a man with a boy's heart," is in a degree true of himself; he is a sort of Peter Pan, a boy at heart who will not grow up. "The heart of the boy" which has not yet passed out of his life, is, then, the first apology for giving type to the gospel of this little book.

To this disposition he would add the credential of experience, for the ideas it expresses are not abstract theories, and its questions are not answered on *a priori* grounds, but from experience. It records the convictions forced upon its author in the course of a dozen years of work with the boy in companionship and love. Whether he worked with the boy as his