

GOOD CITIZENSHIP

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649595334

Good Citizenship by Julia Richman & Isabel Richman Wallach

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GOOD CITIZENSHIP

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NEW YORK -- CINCINNATI -- CHICAGO
AMERICAN BOOK COMPANY

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School of Education Library
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HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY
June 12, 1927

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TO
THE BOYS AND GIRLS OF AMERICA
THIS BOOK IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED
WITH THE HOPE AND PRAYER
THAT IT MAY HELP TO MAKE THEM TRUE CITIZENS

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PREFACE

For many years instruction in Civics has formed a part of the curriculum of the highest grades in grammar schools and in the lowest grades in high schools. This instruction, aiming to impress upon the pupils the meaning and importance of the Constitution of the United States, and the functions of state and municipal government, fails to benefit the child withdrawn from school before he enters the upper grades, and utterly fails to show to children their personal obligations as little citizens.

Investigation has shown that the greatest number of violations of law in large cities are due not so much to disrespect for the authority of the Law as to ignorance of the Law, especially of that part of the Law covered by local ordinances. It is far more important for the welfare of the state that a child should be made to realize his present obligations to the commonwealth than that he should know the qualifications of a United States senator. The belief that a knowledge of things close at hand should be acquired first, and that such knowledge should be made to include the personal relations of the child to the Law, is rapidly becoming an educational principle. Within recent years New York, Chicago, and other large cities have introduced

into their respective curricula instruction in Civics for the lower grades, Chicago beginning its work in this direction in the first year.

This book is planned to meet the needs of fourth year children, but in the hands of an intelligent teacher it can be used both in higher and in lower grades. Although designed as a supplementary reader to fit a graded course in Civics, it will be found to contain much of dramatic interest, many ethical lessons, and a clear statement of the child's opportunities for rendering civic service. These features will make its use valuable in schools where teachers are endeavoring to meet the demands of social advance, even though no specific instruction in Civics is required. It is suited for use also in evening schools, especially in those frequented by immigrants. Leaders of juvenile clubs will find its pages rich in suggestion.

It is hoped, therefore, that the book will be of real help to all teachers who aim to bring children to a realization of their best selves, and to all children who are capable of appreciating the worth of good citizenship.

The authors are indebted to Fire Commissioner O'Brien, Police Commissioner Bingham, Street Cleaning Commissioner Bensel, and Health Commissioner Darlington of New York for much valuable information.

GOOD CITIZENSHIP

CHAPTER I

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire is a good servant, but a bad master. So long as the servant remains under our control, it does many kinds of work for us, and does them well. When we allow it to get beyond control it may do untold damage. Fire is a restless thing, always trying to escape. If through our carelessness, or through accident, fire breaks the bounds we set for it, it leaps up and out like a wild thing. It feeds as it flies, on everything inflammable within reach, and grows greater and stronger every moment.

A child can manage the servant fire. When fire plays the master it may need many men and many hours of the hardest kind of fighting to conquer it. Where people live close together, as they do in cities, fire so often attempts to make itself their master, that it is necessary to employ a special force of men to defeat it. These men are members of the Fire Department, and many are the brave deeds they do when danger threatens.