

# **THE LUXURY OF CHILDREN & SOME OTHER LUXURIES**

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The luxury of children & some other luxuries by Edward Sandford Martin

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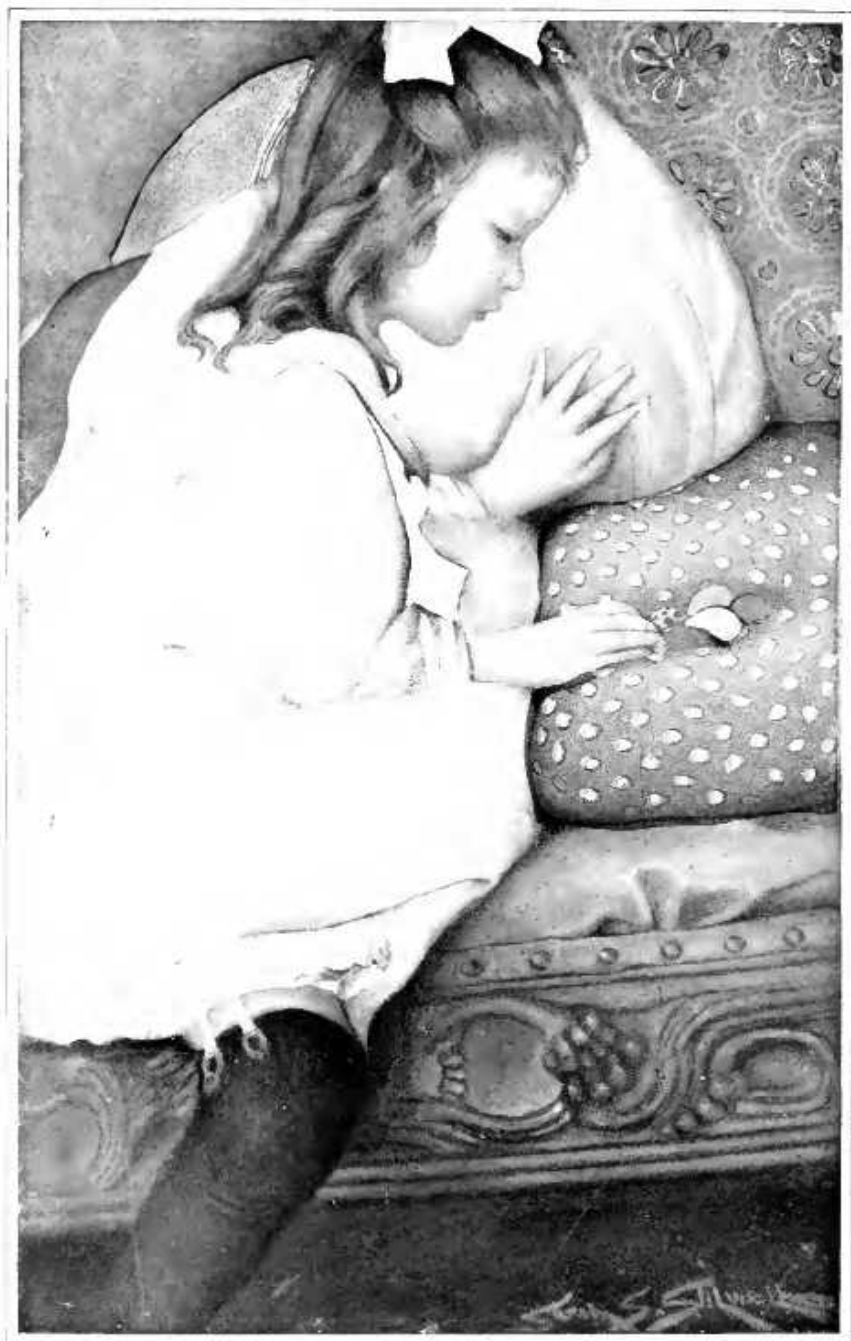
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**EDWARD SANDFORD MARTIN**

**THE LUXURY OF  
CHILDREN & SOME  
OTHER LUXURIES**





EASTER-TIME

THE LUXURY OF  
CHILDREN  
& SOME OTHER LUXURIES

BY

EDWARD SANDFORD MARTIN

AUTHOR OF

"WINDFALLS OF OBSERVATION" "LUCID INTERVALS"

"A LITTLE BROTHER OF THE RICH"

"POEMS AND VERSES"

ILLUSTRATED BY

SARAH S. STILWELL



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## THE LUXURY OF CHILDREN

I DON'T know of any aspect in which Earth appears to better advantage than as a playground for small children. They like it, literally, "down to the ground," and they are willing to take it just as it is. If improvements are thrown in, so much the better, but they are not great sticklers for improvements. They like fences because they are good to climb; they like to have the grass cut sometimes, because haycocks are good to tumble over; they like flowers, but very simple flowers will answer very well; they like the seashore—sand, sea-weed, starfish, shells, surf, still water—but all they ask is that it shall be accessible. They don't insist on having style and society thrown in. They beat most of us grown-ups in adaptability—in taking



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## THE LUXURY OF CHILDREN

what they can get and making the most of it. Their experience is so limited that they are not critical, and their imaginations are so active that a very moderate material basis gives them all the foundation they need for fairy-land.

They have the advantage of their elders in that the real business of life with them is play. The time they devote to it does not have to be saved up from working-hours. They have all the time there is for play except what is needed for eating, which is a pleasant exercise; for sleeping, which also has its attractive points; and for getting washed and dressed from time to time, which is endurable if kept within reasonable limits. And when they play heartily and cheerfully, they are doing well their share of the business of life.

Most children like flowers, but some children love them. It was one of the merits of a child I know, when she was still a very little girl, that she loved flowers as unaffectedly as any grown-up person with a garden. She

