

**BECKONINGS FROM  
LITTLE HANDS: EIGHT  
STUDIES IN CHILD-LIFE**

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Beckonings from Little Hands: Eight Studies in Child-Life by Patterson Du Bois

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**B**ECKONINGS FROM  
LITTLE HANDS

EIGHT STUDIES IN CHILD-  
LIFE. WITH DESIGNS AND  
DRAWINGS BY THE AUTHOR  
AND WITH PROCESS-WORK  
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*Patterson Du Bois*

*"A little child shall lead them."*

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PHILADELPHIA  
JOHN D. WATTLE & CO.  
1895

KD 9377



*James H. G. [unclear]*

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BY

PATTERSON DUBOIS

TO  
THE MOTHER-HEARTED  
**Mother**  
OF OUR  
FOUR LITTLE LEADERS

*Alas for the teacher who does not learn more from his  
children than he can ever hope to teach them!*

G. STANLEY HALL.



## APOLOGY.

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These beckonings are real beckonings. They were discerned not in dreams, nor in books, but through the golden atmosphere of family life, in the sweet seclusion of the home.

But "none of us liveth to himself." We are all children of one Father. If the messages that have come to us have helped us, we must pass them on. Some things are too sacred to be kept forever secret. Every high and holy experience is a trust, sacred to the high and holy need of those to whom we are sent to minister.

There is a world of childhood, underrated, misunderstood, slighted, snubbed, thwarted, oppressed. Yet while the children—whom our Lord thought worthy of exalting as our model—are held in the

meanest kind of subjection by those who love them, they remain bravely patient and loyal.

With four little ones pointing to this truth, the question brought squarely before me was, not whether I had a right to speak their message, but whether I had a right to withhold it.

The result was the first edition of these studies. It was printed privately, and its circulation restricted to such as presumably would sympathize with its spirit, and appreciate what the execution of such a trust from my little benefactors meant.

At once, appeals for an unrestricted issue were pressed from near and far, from stranger and from friend; from parents conscious alike of their ignorance and their responsibility; from the clergy, from kindergartners, primary teachers, and persons eminent in educational, literary, and other walks where the child is studied from either the scientific or the humanitarian point of view. For nearly two years the author was thus advised of

his moral obligation to make accessible to the public that which it could not ask as a gift, but which it had so eagerly sought—for childhood's sake.

The present edition is therefore a long-considered response to the importunate pleas of the child-lover, and a renewed plea to the people in behalf of the children.

The chapters may be regarded progressively as affording perspective views of truths revealed in child-development. While in this sense they are closely related one to another, yet each chapter has its individual completeness. If this may appear to involve occasional repetition, it emphasizes the fact that the book is not a memoir, but a book of principles. It is only because those who taught me those principles happen to be my children, that I cite my children to illustrate those principles. If the work memorializes, it does so incidentally, not of direct intention. Its purpose is both to awaken sympathy and to inform. It pleads for justice to children by exhibiting some phases