

SONGS OF CHILDHOOD

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Songs of childhood by Eugene Field & Reginald De Koven

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EUGENE FIELD & REGINALD DE KOVEN

**SONGS OF
CHILDHOOD**



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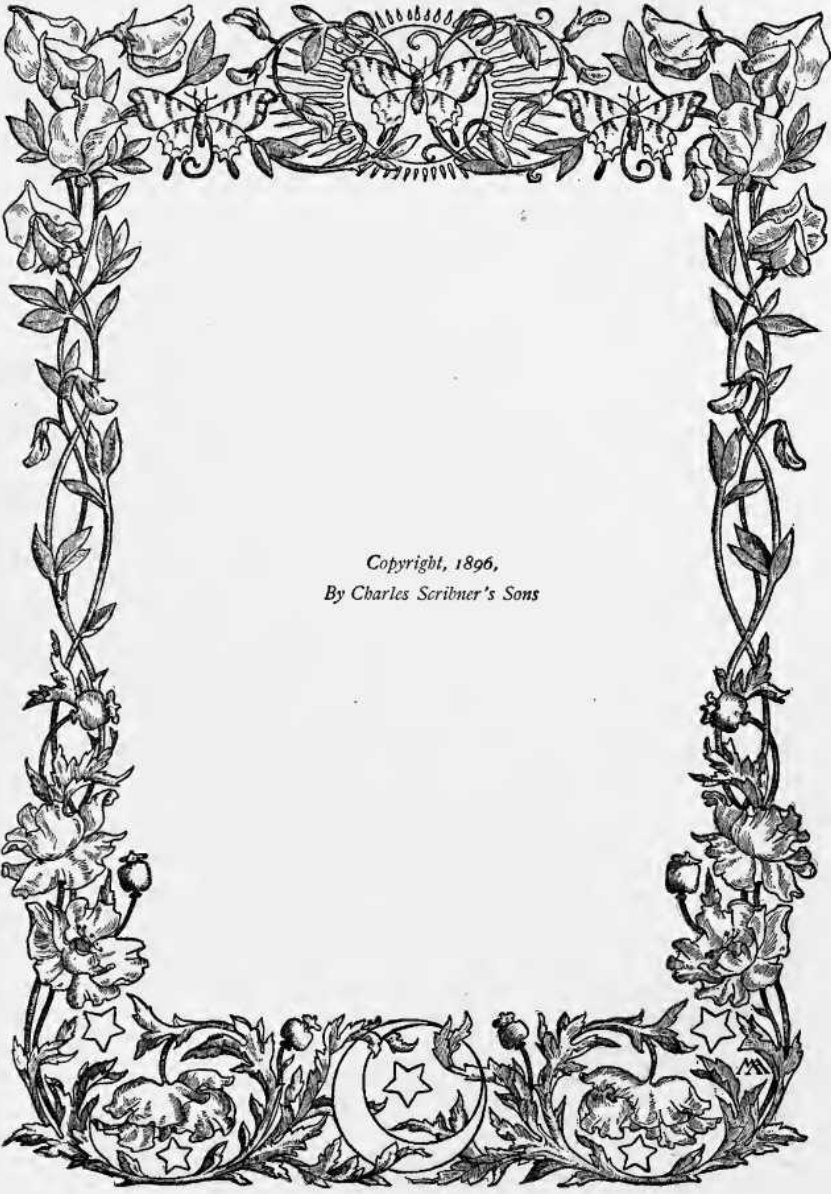
VERSES
BY

EUGENE
FIELD

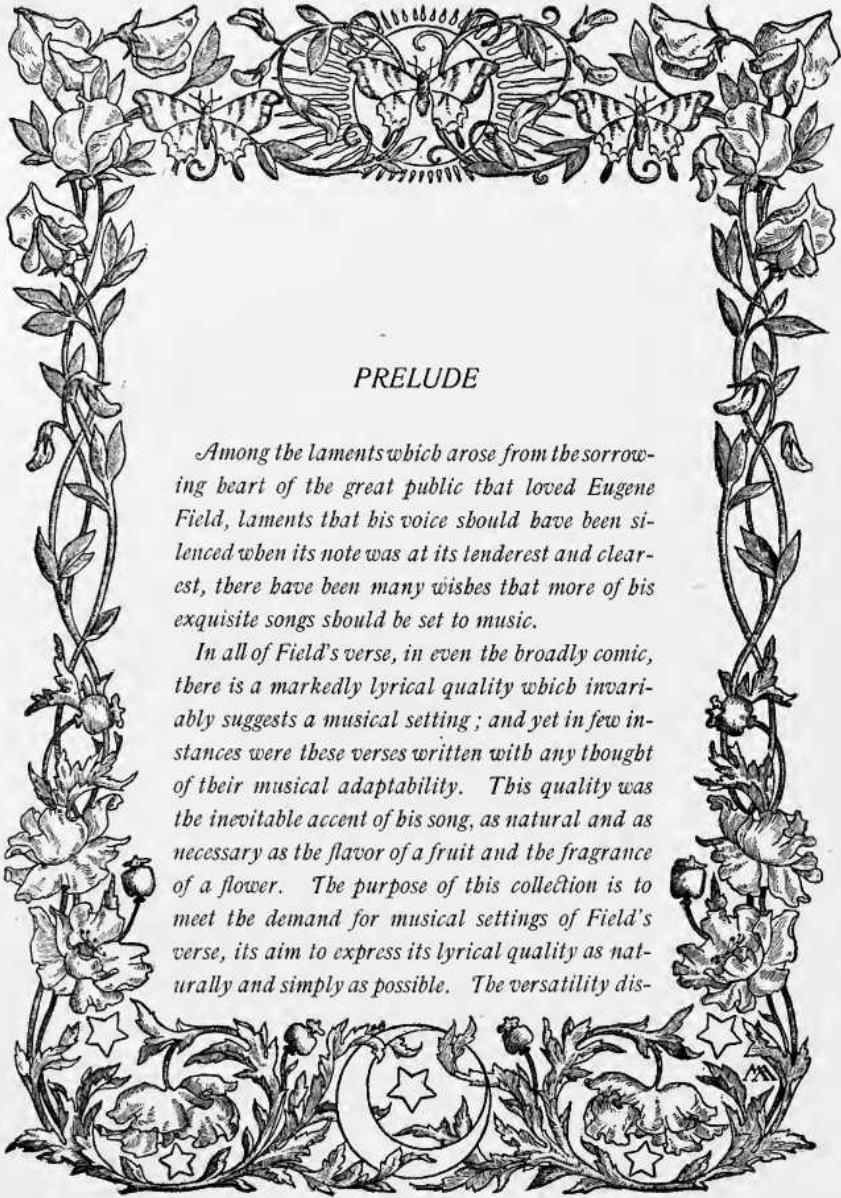


MUSIC BY
REGINALD DE KOVEN
AND OTHERS

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS
NEW YORK ~ 1907



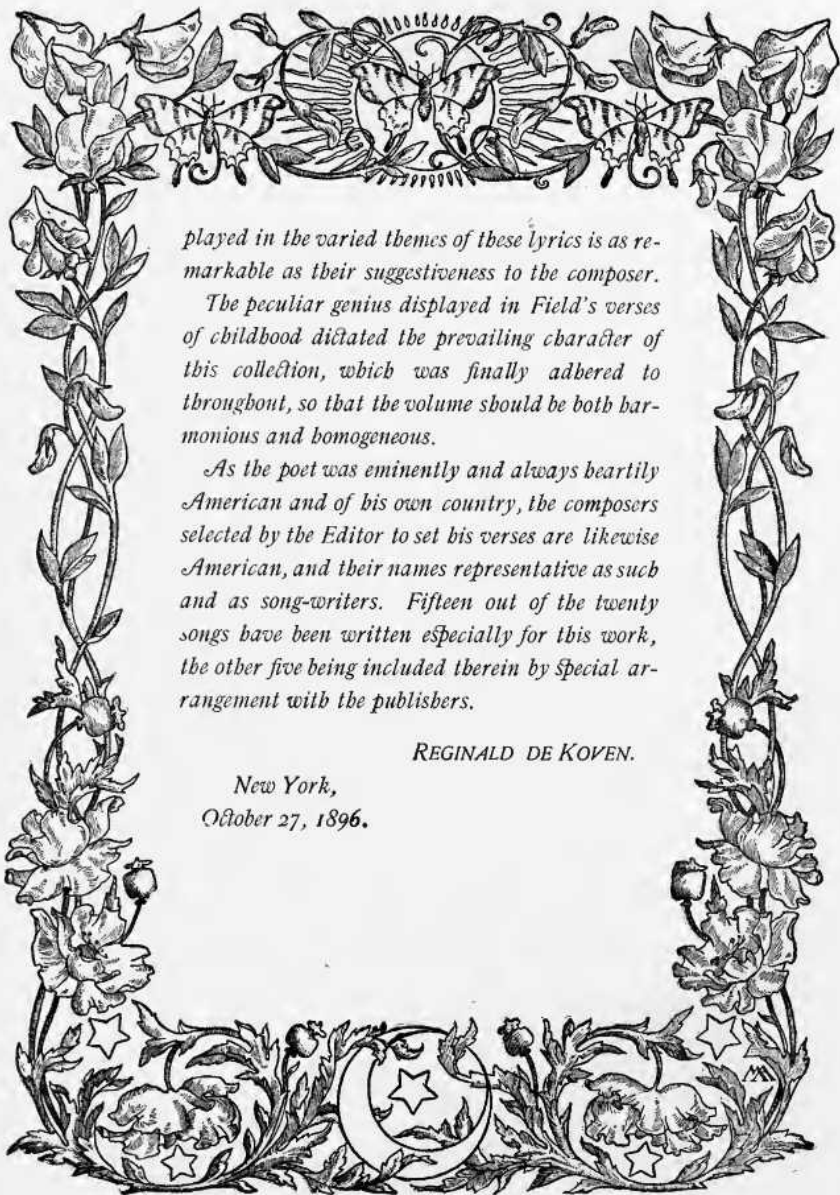
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PRELUDE

Among the laments which arose from the sorrowing heart of the great public that loved Eugene Field, laments that his voice should have been silenced when its note was at its tenderest and clearest, there have been many wishes that more of his exquisite songs should be set to music.

In all of Field's verse, in even the broadly comic, there is a markedly lyrical quality which invariably suggests a musical setting; and yet in few instances were these verses written with any thought of their musical adaptability. This quality was the inevitable accent of his song, as natural and as necessary as the flavor of a fruit and the fragrance of a flower. The purpose of this collection is to meet the demand for musical settings of Field's verse, its aim to express its lyrical quality as naturally and simply as possible. The versatility dis-



played in the varied themes of these lyrics is as remarkable as their suggestiveness to the composer.

The peculiar genius displayed in Field's verses of childhood dictated the prevailing character of this collection, which was finally adbered to throughtout, so that the volume should be both harmonious and homogeneous.

As the poet was eminently and always heartily American and of his own country, the composers selected by the Editor to set his verses are likewise American, and their names representative as such and as song-writers. Fifteen out of the twenty songs have been written especially for this work, the other five being included therein by Special arrangement with the publishers.

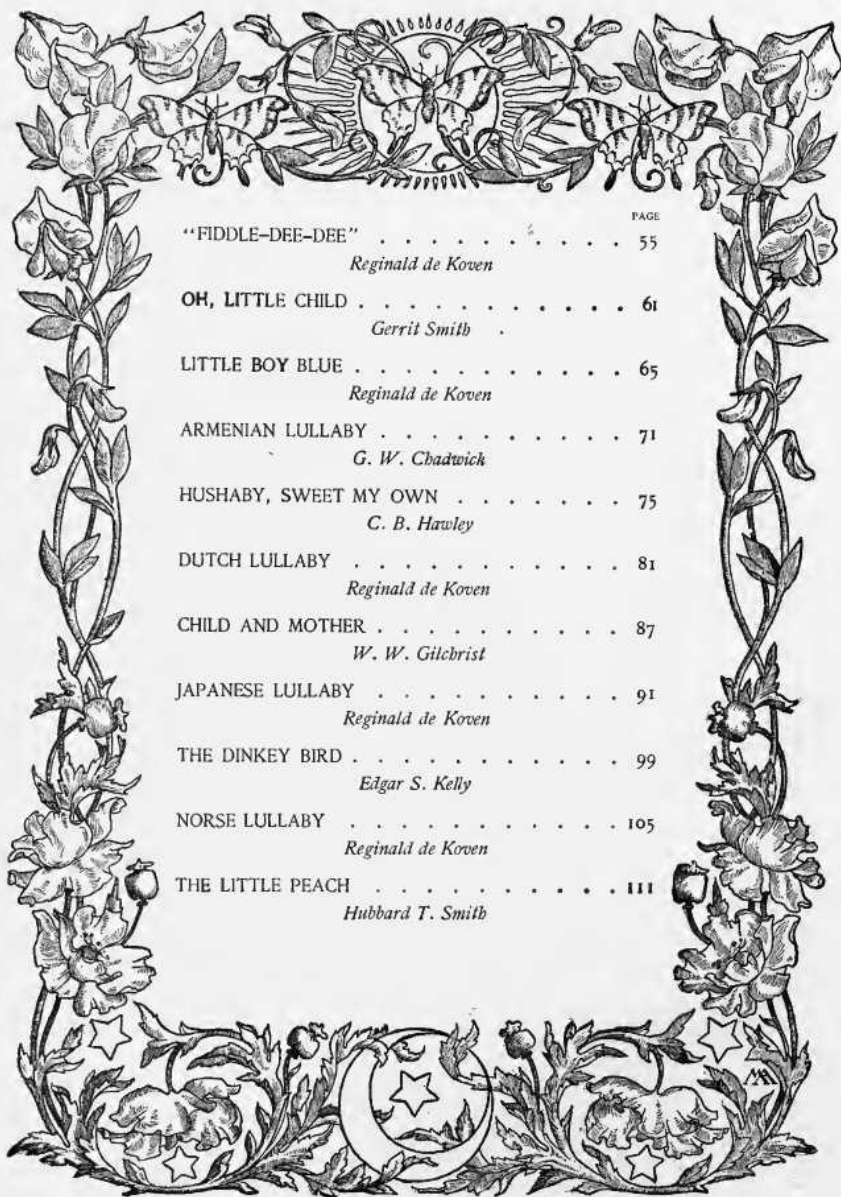
REGINALD DE KOVEN.

New York,
October 27, 1896.

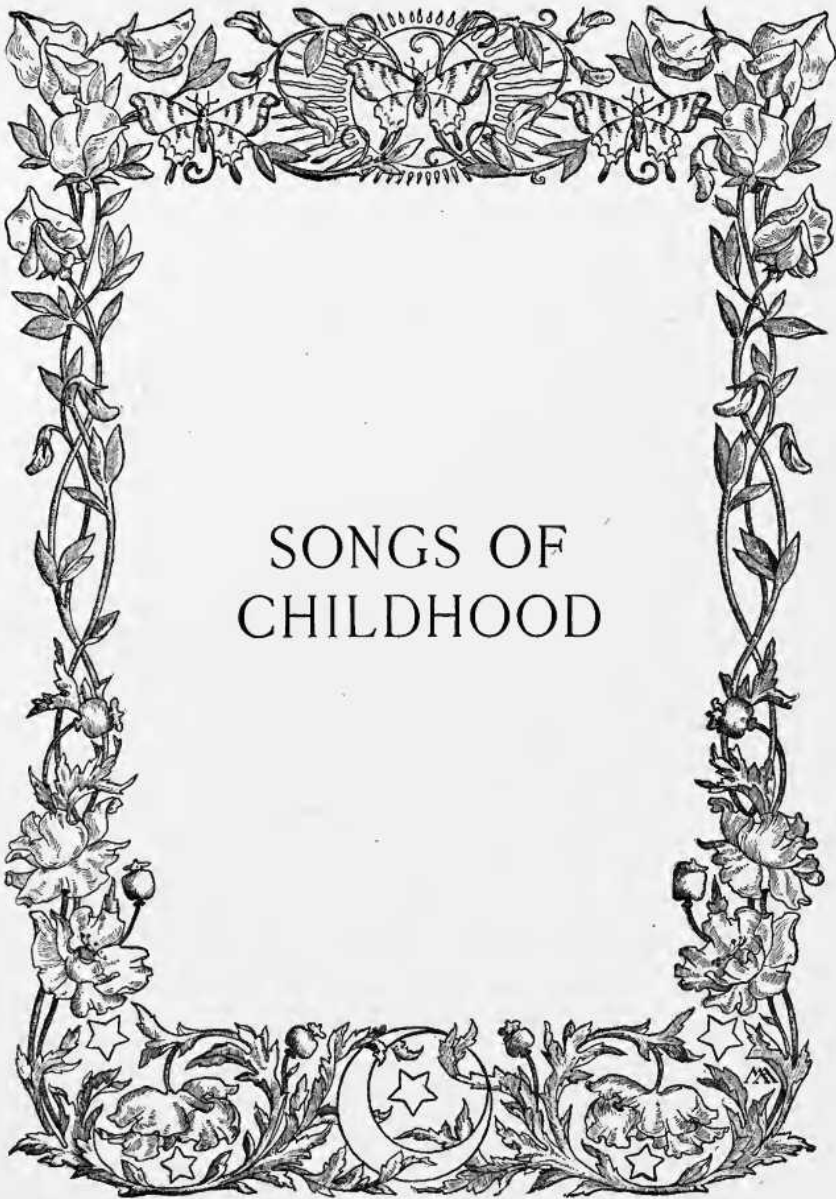


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