

**THE CHILDREN'S HOUR,
ADDRESSES TO YOUNG
CONGREGATIONS ABOUT
HOUSES, FLOWERS, SHIPS,
BOOKS**

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The Children's Hour, Addresses to Young Congregations about Houses, Flowers, Ships, Books by
Charles Bruce

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CHARLES BRUCE

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ADDRESSES TO YOUNG
CONGREGATIONS ABOUT
HOUSES,
FLOWERS, SHIPS, BOOKS**

THE
CHILDREN'S HOUR.

ADDRESSES TO
YOUNG CONGREGATIONS
ABOUT
HOUSES, FLOWERS, SHIPS, BOOKS, &c., &c.

BY
CHARLES BRUCE,

Author of "The Story of a Moss Rose," "My Beautiful Home," &c., &c.

WITH A PREFACE BY THE
REV. E. PAXTON HOOD.

*"A pause in the day's occupation
That is known as the children's hour."*



LONDON:
ELLIOT STOCK, 62, PATERNOSTER ROW, E.C.
1874.

107. W. 370

TO

JOHN LINCOLNE, Esq.,

AS A SLIGHT BUT VERY HEARTY EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE,

FOR VERY MANY KINDNESSES,

THIS LITTLE VOLUME IS INSCRIBED

BY

THE AUTHOR.

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P R E F A C E.

THE Author of this little volume requests me to introduce it to the reader by two or three words of preface. Feeling that they are quite unnecessary, I still do so with much pleasure. Many of the following addresses first appeared in a periodical which I, for a short time, edited, *The Preacher's Lantern*; it was designed to assist those who in any way cultivate the art of useful public speech, and one of the most useful departments of that art, and one of the most difficult of attainment, is the power to interest, really and honestly, the minds and hearts of children. The Children's Pulpit has seldom been very well filled. Lively sympathy, ready illustration, apt, pertinent, and witty remark, and perfect reality, are all more necessary than in addresses to elder folk. Children are not easily stiffened and starched into the conventional rigidity of back-board behaviour and pew propriety; the attention they give must be

honestly won; and, at the same time, it is not the less a duty to give to the address material which may solidly benefit as well as naturally entertain. The Author of this little volume possesses, in a considerable degree, all the attributes to which I have referred, and I am very certain that a slight glance through the following pages will show that they may do good service in many Sabbath-schools, and many others than children may read them or hear them with interest; for it is very true that for the average mind of a congregation the most captivating talk to children will also be the most interesting to men and women; we over-estimate the degree to which the child has been outlived and outgrown in all our congregations. I give to this little volume my very hearty and loving word, because, with much freshness of feeling and fancy, it shows much earnestness of purpose and simplicity of style. I think it ought to be useful, and I pray that it may be so.

EDWIN PAXTON HOOD.

Halloway.

I.

Children and Houses.

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