

**THE DAWN OF
CHARACTER: A
STUDY OF CHILD LIFE**

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The dawn of character: a study of child life by Edith E. Read Mumford

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EDITH E. READ MUMFORD

**THE DAWN OF
CHARACTER: A
STUDY OF CHILD LIFE**

THE DAWN OF CHARACTER

BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

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[In preparation.]

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THE
DAWN OF CHARACTER

A STUDY OF CHILD LIFE

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

BY

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"This is a book which will rank with the works of the masters of child study. We commend it without reservation to all desirous of possessing a reliable and rational guide to a child's character building."—*The Child*.

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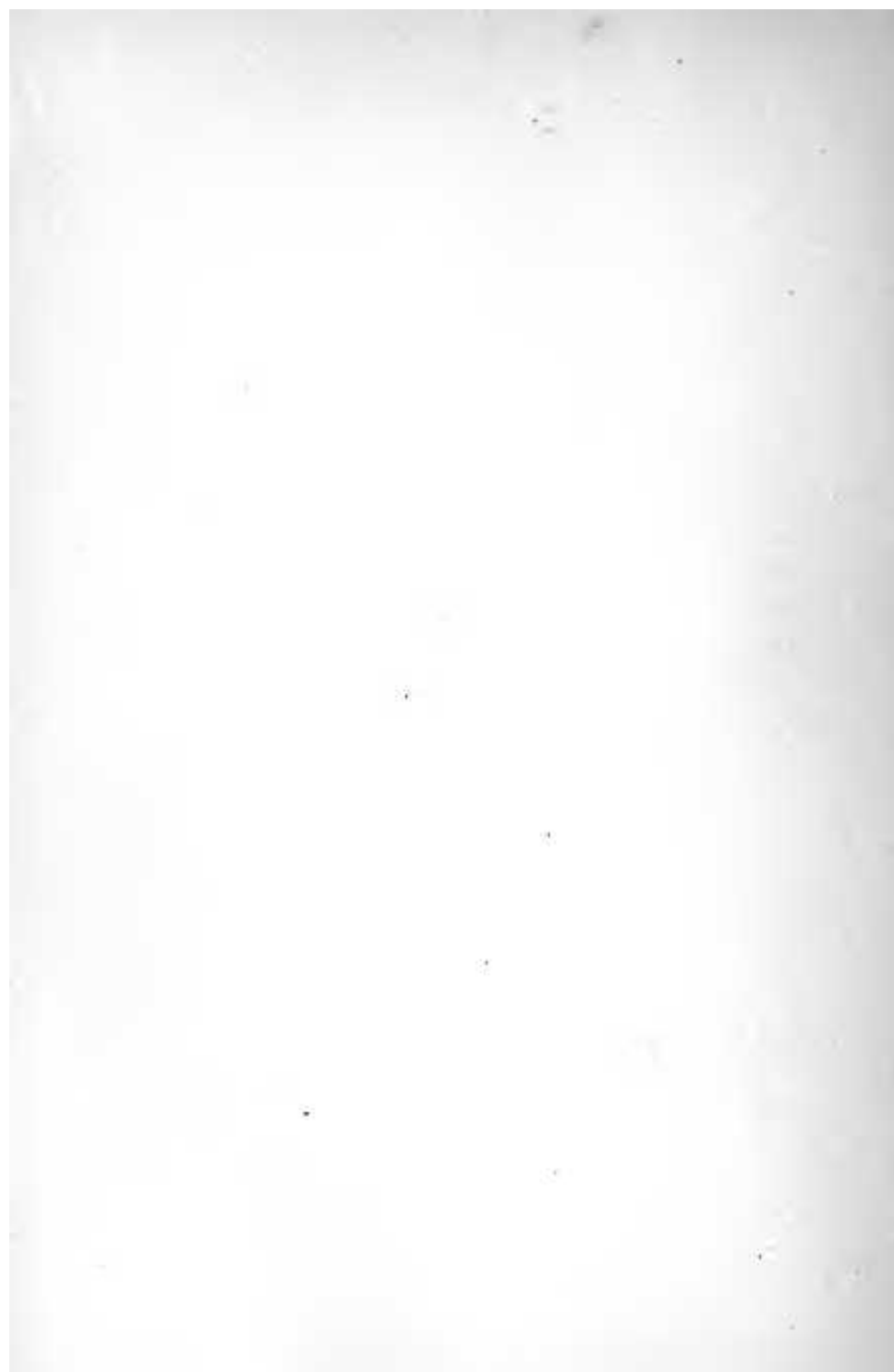
"A really admirable book on the training of very young children."—*The London Teacher*.

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TO A GROUP
OF
FIVE LITTLE TEACHERS,
THIS BOOK IS LOVINGLY
DEDICATED

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PREFACE.

MANY are called upon to be responsible for children, who have come but little into close contact with them. Unfamiliar with children's natures and with children's ways, they are yet constantly required to act, and to act on the spur of the moment. Mistakes, under such circumstances, are almost inevitable; mistakes which often entail suffering to the child and disappointment to parent or teacher.

To many, fortunately, mother-wit comes so readily, that it hardly seems necessary for them to prepare themselves for their task. But I believe there are not a few who would face their responsibilities with more joy and confidence, if they knew somewhat of the natural workings of the child's mind.

We cannot rightly judge the child from our own standpoint; he is not "man-writ-small," but an unknown quantity, "man-in-the-making".

In this book, my endeavour has been to interpret the child's experiences from his own point of view. Both in the earlier psychological chapters, in which I have tried to trace his own development; and in the later chapters, concerned with his development in relation to us and our