

**DAVID'S HERITAGE:
A NOVEL**

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David's Heritage: A Novel by Mrs. Osmond Young Owings

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MRS. OSMOND YOUNG OWINGS

**DAVID'S HERITAGE:
A NOVEL**

David's Heritage

A Novel

By

MRS. OSMOND YOUNG OWINGS

Author of "Phoebe," a novel,
published by this house

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1914

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David's Heritage

*To my friend
Dr. Reed Smith*

PART ONE

*With aching hands and bleeding feet,
We dig and heap, lay stone on stone,
We bear the burden and the heat
Of the long day and wish 'twere done!
Not till the hours of night return
All we have built do we discern.*

—MATTHEW ARNOLD.

David's Heritage

CHAPTER I

David Witherspoon had always loved people. Not only did he love clean, prosperous people, but the maimed, the halt, the blind, the dirty, and the wicked interested him. Consequently, it was no surprise to his mother when he decided to become a doctor.

However, Mrs. Witherspoon realized that her son, despite his Christian instinct in loving his fellow-men, was only a frank, clean-minded, healthy young pagan. With all her yearning and prayers she had not been able to make him at all religious. He went to church, it was true; but if there were a bit of sky upon which he might look or the song of a bird to which he might listen, he would not hear one word of the sermon. Yet, while he had no formulated belief his sub-conscious creed was composed of the following five articles:

He loved his mother.

It was a shame to lie or steal.

He loved nature.

He loved music.

He intended to be a great doctor some day.

When he first went to college he was eager to