

**THE YOUNG MALEFACTOR:  
A STUDY IN JUVENILE  
DELINQUENCY, ITS  
CAUSES AND TREATMENT**

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The young malefactor: a study in juvenile delinquency, its causes and treatment by Thomas Travis

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**THOMAS TRAVIS**

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THE  
YOUNG MALEFACTOR

A STUDY IN JUVENILE DELINQUENCY  
ITS CAUSES AND TREATMENT

BY

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CALIFORNIA

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

THE HONORABLE BEN B. LINDSEY

JUDGE OF THE DENVER JUVENILE COURT

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## INTRODUCTION

BY THE HONORABLE BEN B. LINDSEY

THE growth of the juvenile or children's courts, in the last seven years, not only emphasizes the importance of the subject of juvenile delinquency, but the necessity for a better understanding concerning it. The unquestioned increase in crime in this country is also one of the powerful facts commanding for this subject the attention it deserves. It was therefore with the greatest interest that I read the manuscript for the present book. In it Dr. Travis has shown exceptional qualifications to deal with the subject.

I have frequently said that there should be some kind of course provided in some of the schools for the training of those who deal with delinquent and dependent children, since an army of such workers is growing up in this country, to keep pace with the probation system which has greatly developed through the juvenile court. There is nothing more important, therefore, than proper literature dealing with the subject. Heretofore most of this litera-

ture has been found only in reports, pamphlets, and occasional addresses; and while there are one or two publications more elaborate, such as that of Morrison, they are now out of date and not well suited to the real, practical needs of present-day problems.

Juvenile delinquency pertains to *all* children, for all children are delinquent at some time or other. Indeed, in present day definitions, delinquency may be better described as a state, condition, or environment into which the child enters, and which if continued may result in such acts or habits in the child as eventually to make of it a criminal. Since at least ninety-five per cent of children who are dealt with as delinquents are no different from the average child but are such because their environment is different, to deal with the subject of delinquency we must necessarily deal with a great many other subjects which pertain to the causes of delinquency. Indeed, in my own experience I can not escape being led into every social, economic, political, and educational condition that concerns the state, which only emphasizes the truth that the child is the state and the state is the child. If the causes of delinquency are ever