

**THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE:
AN EPISODE OF THE
THIRTEENTH CENTURY**

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The Children's Crusade: an episode of the thirteenth century by George Zabriskie Gray

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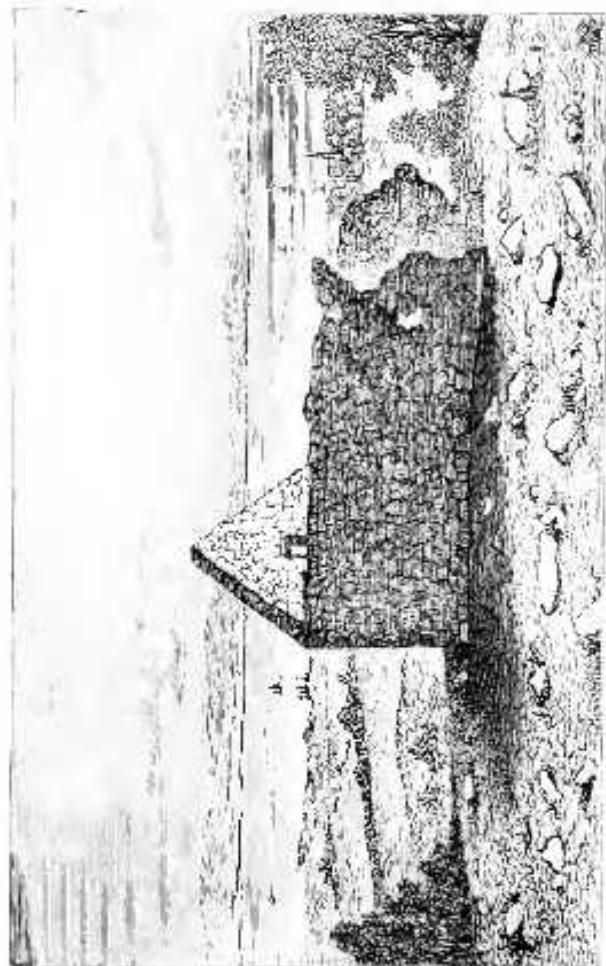
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GEORGE ZABRISKIE GRAY

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CHURCH OF THE NEW INNOCENTS

THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE

An Episode of the Thirteenth Century

BY

GEORGE ZABRISKIE GRAY



BOSTON AND NEW YORK
HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN AND COMPANY
The Riverside Press, Cambridge
1898

Rubr. Hic vide perigrinacionem puerorum et qualiter per
incantaciones sunt decepti.

Illis temporibus stupendam quid crevit.
Mundoque mirabilis truffa inolevit.
Nam sub boni specie malum sic succrevit.
Arte quidem magica ista late sevit.

Rubr. Hic est carmen quod ubique cantabatur
Nycolaus famulus Christi transfretabit.
Et cum innocentibus Ierusalem intrabit.
Mare siccis pedibus secutus calcabit.
Juvenes et virgines caste copulabit.
Ad honorem Domini tanta perpetrabit.
Quod pax jubilatio Deo laus sonabit.
Paganos et perfidos omnes baptizabit.
Omnis in Jerusalem carmen hoc cantabit.
Pax nunc christicolis Christus proximabit.
Et redemptos sanguine mire collustrabit.
Nycolai pueros omnes coronabit.

Rubr. Talis devocio ante hec non est audita.
Aures cunctis prouult virgines ornantur.
Annos infra sedecim evangelizantur.
Concurrentes pueri certant ut sequantur.
Et rumare viderant casso consolantur.
Ungarus Theutonicus Francus sociantur.
Boemus Lombardicus Brittoque conantur.
Flandria Vestfalia omnes federantur.

Frise cum Norwagia cuncti conglobantur.
Prurit pes et oculus pueros venantur.
Illi de Brundusio virgines stuprantur.
Et in arcum pessimum passim venundantur.
Risum luctus occupat digne lamentantur.
Plorant matres ut Rachel nati morti dantur.
Vanitates hauriunt pueri fraudantur.

(*Vide Appendix C.*)

PREFACE



THERE are some minor episodes of history that have not received the attention which they seem to merit. Historians have been too much occupied with events of greater importance, to stop and explore these by-ways as they passed them. The same reason led the chroniclers of the times to preserve no more than scanty details concerning them, and consequently these worthies often dismiss with a few words incidents that have more interest than others to which they give many a dreary page.

This has been the case with the transaction to which this volume is devoted. Although pertaining to a sphere so interesting as the child-life of other and remote days, yet it has been almost forgotten. Many are not aware of its occurrence. Some have regarded it as a myth.

It is generally referred to, with varying fullness, in works that treat of the Crusades, but not always with accuracy of statement. The most copious accounts are given in Raumer's "Geschichte der Hohenstaufen," Herter's "Innocent III.," Menzel's "Deutschland," Wilken's "Kreuzzüge," Haken's "Gemälde der Kreuzzüge," Sporschild's "Kreuzzüge," "L'Esprit des Croisades," by Mailly, "Histoire des Croisades," by Michaud, "Influence des Croisades," by Choiseul d'Aillecourt, Mill's "History of the Crusades," and Hecker's "Child Pilgrimages." Many authors, in whose writings we would expect some reference to the subject, are entirely silent concerning it.

But, otherwise than with the brevity necessary to a casual mention in the course of historical narratives, this theme has never been treated. As far as I can ascertain, it has never been the subject of a volume, nor have the original materials been thoroughly explored and exhausted. A small Sunday-school book was published several years ago, called "The Crusade of the Children," but it was merely a brief fiction based upon the event.

It is therefore because the field was untrod-
den, and because I thought that the story told
in its completeness would possess interest, that
I have written this book.

As regards the Chronicles that refer to the
event, a list is given of all that have yet been
found by others and by myself. For their
trustworthiness, it is sufficient for me that
such writers as Wilken, Herter, and Michaud
rely fully upon their statements. In the notes
I have not thought it necessary to give the
particular source of each fact in the course of
the narrative, but have only done so in the
cases of those of prominence, or of those that
are peculiar.

Hecker regards it and treats it as one of
the "epidemics of the Middle Ages" of which
he writes. They who wish to view it in that
light can consult his pages. It may seem to
some that to regard it as such, and to call it by
such a name, is to open the door for the admis-
sion into the list of diseases of many transac-
tions that the world has been wont to view, not
in that way, but rather as the manifestations of