

**A CHILD
OF TUSCANY**

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A child of Tuscany by Marguerite Bouvet

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BY

MARGUERITE BOUVET

AUTHOR OF "MY LADY," "SWEET WILLIAM," "LITTLE MARJORIE'S
LOVE STORY," "PRINCE TIP-TOP," ETC.

Illustrated by

WILL PHILLIPS HOOPER



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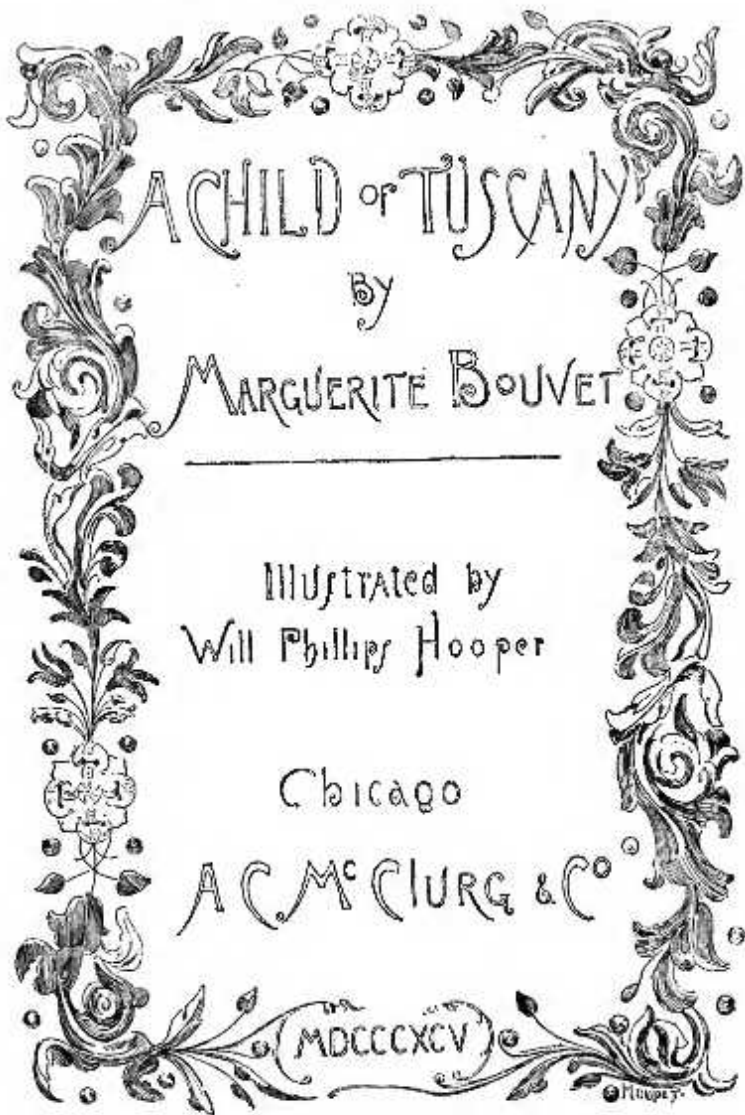
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Chicago

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P R E F A C E.

I HOPE that you, my dear young readers, may some day have the good fortune to know the quaint and beautiful city where I have laid the scene of this little story; for among all the cities of Europe there is none more interesting, and which people learn to love better, than Florence, — “Florence, the fairest and most famous of the daughters of Rome!” as Dante calls her. You have doubtless seen on your maps that Florence is situated in the northern part of Italy. It is a city of noble antiquity, having existed, some historians tell us, as early as the Roman period. In the twelfth century it was already the most important town of Tuscany, and afterwards became the capital of the independent duchy of that name; and there the princes and dukes held their court. In 1861 all the provinces of Italy were united into one kingdom under Victor Emmanuel, and the court was removed to Rome, 1870. But Florence is still visited every spring by many of the nobility of Europe, on account of its delightful climate, its rich art galleries, and its many