

**YOUNG FOLKS'
RECITATIONS: NUMBER 1.
DESIGNED FOR YOUNG
PEOPLE OF FIFTEEN YEARS**

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Young Folks' Recitations: Number 1. Designed for Young People of Fifeteen Years by Mrs. J. W. Shoemaker

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MRS. J. W. SHOEMAKER

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NUMBER 1

Designed for Young People of Fifteen
Years

COMPILED BY
MRS. J. W. SHOEMAKER

PHILADELPHIA
The Penn Publishing Company
1889

PREFACE.

THIS little volume is designed for children between the ages of five and fifteen years.

The need, as well as the numerous inquiries for a work of this kind, has led to the preparation of the present compilation.

Our resources for collecting that which is fresh, varied, and vigorous are many; and, while engaged in the task of arranging, three things were kept prominently in view: first, that the selections should neither be long nor tedious; second, that there should be an abundant variety; and, third, that the tone or character should be healthful. Hence, there are short pieces both of poetry and prose, some treating of plant and animal life, some of childhood pleasures, some brimming with innocent fun, some filled with patriotic fervor, some with bits of philosophy, and others designed to inspire the soul with motives toward truth, honor, right, and duty.

A few dialogues and acting tableaux are appended, and thus through its adaptability it is believed that the book will meet the wants of children for the merry-makings in the home circle, for church anniversaries, and for school exhibitions. Such then is the style and character of this collection of Readings and Recitations which we offer to you, the Young Folks of our Beloved Land, trusting you may find in it much to gratify and please, and, above all, that which will lead your minds and hearts to thoughts Beautiful, Pure, and Good.

MRS. J. W. SHOEMAKER.

Philadelphia, January 1st, 1884.

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SUCCESS IN LIFE.

POETS may be born, but success is made ; therefore let me beg of you, in the outset of your career, to dismiss from your minds all ideas of succeeding by luck.

There is no more common thought among young people than that foolish one that by and by something will turn up by which they will suddenly achieve fame or fortune. Luck is an *ignis fatuus*. You may follow it to ruin, but not to success. The great Napoleon, who believed in his destiny, followed it until he saw his star go down in blackest night, when the Old Guard perished around him, and Waterloo was lost. A pound of pluck is worth a ton of luck.

Young men talk of trusting to the spur of the occasion. That trust is vain. Occasion cannot make spurs. If you expect to wear spurs, you must win them. If you wish to use them, you must buckle them to your own heels before you go into the fight. Any success you may achieve is not worth the having unless you fight for it. Whatever you win in life you must conquer by your own efforts, and then it is yours—a part of yourself.

Again: in order to have any success in life, or any worthy success, you must resolve to carry into your work a fullness of knowledge—not merely a sufficiency, but more than a sufficiency. Be fit for more than the thing you are now doing. Let every one know that you have a reserve in yourself; that you have more power than you are now using. If you are not too large for the place you occupy, you are too small for it. How full our coun-

try is of bright examples, not only of those who occupy some proud eminence in public life, but in every place you may find men going on with steady nerve, attracting the attention of their fellow-citizens, and carving out for themselves names and fortunes from small and humble beginnings and in the face of formidable obstacles.

Let not poverty stand as an obstacle in your way. Poverty is uncomfortable, as I can testify; but nine times out of ten the best thing that can happen to a young man is to be tossed overboard, and compelled to sink or swim for himself. In all my acquaintance, I have never known one to be drowned who was worth the saving. This would not be wholly true in any country but one of political equality like ours.

The reason is this: In the aristocracies of the Old World, wealth and society are built up like the strata of rock which compose the crust of the earth. If a boy be born in the lowest stratum of life, it is almost impossible for him to rise through this hard crust into the higher ranks; but in this country it is not so. The strata of our society resemble rather the ocean, where every drop, even the lowest, is free to mingle with all others, and may shine at last on the crest of the highest wave. This is the glory of our country, and you need not fear that there are any obstacles which will prove too great for any brave heart.

In giving you being, God locked up in your nature certain forces and capabilities. What will you do with them? Look at the mechanism of a clock. Take off the pendulum and ratchet, and the wheels go rattling down and all its force is expended in a moment; but properly balanced and regulated, it will go on, letting out its force tick by tick, measuring hours and days, and