LOVE AND LAW IN CHILD TRAINING: A BOOK FOR MOTHERS

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Love and Law in Child Training: A Book for Mothers by Emilie Poulsson

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EMILIE POULSSON

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LOVE AND LAW

CHILD TRAINING.

A Book for Mothers.

By

EMILIE POULSSON,

Author of "Nursery Pinger Plays," "In the Child's World," "Through the Farmyard Gate," etc.

> "All's love, yet all's law." Robert Browning.

> > 1899.

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ATLANTA. KANSAS CITY.

GRATEFUL acknowledgments are hereby rendered to *The Outlook* for permission to use "Christmas with the Children," which is incorporated in "A Few Hints upon Keeping Christmas"; to the *Kindergarten Magazine* for "The Kindergarten Christmas Tree Transplanted to the Home," and to the *Ladies' Home Journal* for "Mrs. Ponsonby's Experiment," copyrighted by the Curtis Publishing Co. E. P.

O l'amour d'une mère! amour que nul n'oublie!
Pain merveilleux, que Dieu partage et multiplie!
Table toujours servie au paternel foyer!
Chacun en a sa part, et tous l'ont tout entier.
Victor Hugo,

O mother-love! love that no one ever forgets! Wonderful bread, that God divides and multiplies! Table always spread beside the paternal hearth! Each one has his part of it, and each one has it all.

"What your children ought to learn, how they should be educated, is no arbitrary matter dependent on artificial passing fashion; it depends on the fundamental principles of the universe, of which human nature (and therefore child-nature, too) is a part,—on the eternal laws of God, which are revealed to us in the life of nature and of man. There can be no true basis of education, no right training and teaching of little children, if these laws and principles be not taken into account, any more than the tiniest plant could attain perfection if the gardener tried to rear it without regard to its dependence on the sun, saying, 'What can such an immense globe so many millions of miles away have to do with this insignificant little primrose'?"

TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE TO "CHILD AND CHILD NA-TURE."

PREFACE.

WHEN a young kindergartner, so fresh from her training school that her diploma ribbon is still unfaded, assumes the charge of a mothers' class, her action is often misunderstood. She is supposed to claim that she feels herself to be ready to tell mothers of experience how to bring up their children. As a general rule, the kindergartner makes no such claim. What she often does think is this: "The kindergarten is the outcome of the mother's art, - the justification of it, the extension of it. Froebel wished to help the mother and believed that he had found the means. It is strange indeed then, if I, a kindergartner, who have studied Froebel's kindergarten principles and methods for two or three years and believe in them profoundly, cannot tell these mothers what the kindergarten is, and what some of Froebel's ideas are with regard to the training of children. It is strange, too, if I, who am the first to take these little children from their mothers and keep them with me half of each school day, have nothing to say to these mothers as to what I hope to do with their little ones; strange if I have no explanation to make as to the influences which I intend to bring to bear upon the children, the opportunities which I mean to offer them." Such are the modest and reasonable thoughts which urge the young kindergartner forward and embolden her to start her mothers' class, however presumptuous her action may be considered.

Though possessing some credentials of age and experience which our hypothetical kindergartner lacks, I offer to mothers, with an equally simple intention, these few chapters, which were first written for a mothers' class. They attempt to give a simple presentation of some of Froebel's ideas as I have understood them, and of the practical bearing of these ideas. The many extracts given from books on kindergarten subjects will show how little desirous I am of claiming originality for the fundamental thoughts, and how anxious to refer the reader to the rich fields of knowledge which these books offer; for gladly do I admit that

"What these strong masters wrote at large, in miles, I follow in small copy in my acre."

EMILIE POULSSON.

Boston, Mass., 1899.

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As the books from which quotations have been made are referred to throughout this volume merely by their titles, a list is appended, giving names of authors and publishers, for the greater convenience of those readers who wish to refer to the books.

- EDUCATION OF MAN Froebel. Translated by W. N. Hailmann. D. Appleton & Co. New York.
- MOTTOES AND COMMENTARIES—Freebel. Translated by Susan E. Blow. D. Appleton & Co. New York.
- SYMBOLIC EDUCATION Susan E. Blow, D. Appleton & Co. New York.
- MOTHER SONGS, GAMES, AND STORIES—Froebel.

 Translated by Frances and Emily Lord. William

 Rice. London.
- PROBBEL'S MOTHER PLAY SONGS Denton J. Snider. Sigma Publishing Co. Chicago.
- CHILD AND CHILD NATURE Baroness von Marenholtz Bülow. Swan, Sonnenschein & Co. London.
- REMINISCENCES OF FROEBEL.—Baroness von Marenholtz Bülow. Lee and Shepard. Boston.
- LECTURES TO KINDERGARTNERS Elizabeth P. Peabody, D. C. Heath & Co. Boston.
- A STUDY OF CHILD NATURE Elizabeth Harrison, Chicago Kindergarten College.
- THE MORAL INSTRUCTION OF CHILDREN Felix Adler.
 D. Appleton & Co. New York.
- LEVANA Jean Paul Richter. Ticknor & Fields (1863). Boston.