

and to make such suggestions as the following: What problems are you working on in history now? Tell me about the adventures of the early settlers. Have you read about Boone's experiences in Kentucky and how the trails were made across the great plains? Let us go to the library this evening to see what we can find relating to these events. Children need the interest and intellectual companionship of parents as well as of teachers. If education is to become a continuous process and if wholesome recreatory interests are to predominate they must become living realities in the home life as well as in the school life of children.

One of the surprising facts revealed by recent studies of reading is that few or no wholesome magazines for children are provided in the home or in the school. To a very large extent children read what is found on the library table. In most cases, these magazines are either too mature or technical for the child to read or of a questionable character for young people. Surprising as it may seem, thousands of boys and girls in this country are reading magazines at home which pollute their minds and which stultify wholesome interests. As parents and teachers we need to recognize this fact clearly and to provide for our children and pupils opportunities to read wholesome types of literature. At times, all children will show interest in objectionable types of literature. The solution lies not in suppression, but in stimulating stronger interests in wholesome fields. Studies which have been made show conclusively that the interests and tastes of young people can be elevated through direction and guidance.

In conclusion may I restate the chief points which I have endeavored to present in this address? America needs an intelligent, educated citizenry. In order to achieve this result our nation has provided educational facilities far beyond those even dreamed of by many nations. As the educational stairway has extended, the fact has become clear that education is a life process

and cannot be given ready-made by schools and institutions. One becomes truly educated only as he continues throughout life to extend his experience, to broaden his interests, and to think clearly and sanely. As an aid in this connection, wide reading and the use of libraries and other printed materials are of the greatest importance. As teachers and parents, our obligations are to stimulate and direct the reading activities of children along interesting wholesome lines. The members of the class of 1928 have unique opportunities in this connection. We believe they will make these possibilities living realities in their respective classrooms.

WILLIAM S. GRAY

### EARLY AMERICAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS

SI T cross-legged on the floor of an attic under the eaves of a humble farmhouse seventy-five years old and look over the discarded juvenile books packed in a shabby leather trunk lined with wallpaper. By the gray light filtering through the one dusty little window you can browse through these dog-eared texts and follow your great-grandfather's youthful mental training. A book on orthography defines *orchestra* as "an apartment for musicians" and *symposium* as a "drinking together," and asks a child to spell useful words like *testaceous*, *solstitial*, and *adscititious*. *A Child's Book on the Soul* explains by dialogue what the soul is, the thought process, and whether or not animals think. You may even read *The Gamut and Time Table, in Verse, for the Instruction of Children in the Rudiments of Music*, by C. French, Published by Morgan and Yeager in Philadelphia in 1824, or *Cobwebs to Catch Flies; or Dialogues in Short Sentences*, published by Mahlon Day in New York in 1834.

You can pick up interesting books published since 1840 or 1850 in many American homes where one family has lived for two

generations. The hobby of collecting old textbooks furnishes a teacher with a lively pastime and provides valuable insight into the minds of earlier Americans and into the background of our modern national spirit.

Dr. Rosenbach's collection is unrivalled; these titles have been copied for the benefit of those who had no chance to see the books when exhibited in Philadelphia and New York in 1927. In reading this list, let your imagination reconstruct the lives of those long ago children, their moral guidance, and their quaint amusements. For a delightful account of the contents, read chapter six in *Books and Bidders*, by Dr. Rosenbach, or his article on "Early American Children's Books" in the *Saturday Evening Post* for May 14, 1927. If you can't connect such somber theology with actual child life, read "The Deliverer" in *Hillsboro People*, by Dorothy Canfield. For a worthy discussion of blood-and-thunder literature see *Tales from Old Cap Collier*, by Irvin Cobb. And by all means finish up with Mark Sullivan's ample tribute to McGuffey's readers in *America Finding Herself*, the second volume of *Our Times*.

TITLES COPIED FROM THE COLLECTION OF DR. A. S. W. ROSENBAACH

Duty of Parents to Pray for their Children Opened and Applied in a Sermon preached May 19, 1703, which Day was set apart by order of the Church in Boston, New England humbly to seek unto God by Prayer with Fasting for the Rising Generation by Increase Mather D. D. (2 Sam. 7:27 quoted.)—Boston, 1759.

Spiritual Milk for Boston Babes. In either England: Drawn out of the Breasts of both Testaments for their Souls nourishment. But may be like Use to any Children. By John Cotton B. D. Late Teacher to the Church of Boston in New England.—Boston, 1684.

The Prompter, a Commentary on Common Sayings and Subjects which are Full of Common Sense, the best Sense in the World. By Noah Webster. "To see all others faults and feel our own."—Boston, 1798.

Proposals Relating to the Education of Youth in Pensilvania.—Philadelphia, 1749.

The Royal Primer Or, an Easy and Pleasant Guide to the Art of Reading authorized by His Majesty George the II To be used throughout His Majesty's Dominions Adorned with cuts London: Printed for J. Newberry at the Bible and Sun in St. Paul's Chapel. Price bound 3d.

The Ladder of Learning to be Ascended early in the Morning—Pittsburgh, 1835.

Johnson's New Philadelphia Spelling Book, a Pleasant Path to Literature, 1803.

A Pack of Cards changed into a compact Almanac and Prayer-Book Adapted to the Entertainment of the Humourous as well as to the Satisfaction of the Grave, Learned and Ingenious.

The Infant's Grammar, Baltimore Extract:

An A and a The, two Articles small,  
Had on their best clothes, to attend at the Ball;  
Like two little lackeys they stood at the door  
That when the Nouns came, they might run in before.  
The temple was wrapped in the shadow of night  
But the torch of young Definite gave a clear light.

Picture of temple with columns in front—Elaborately dressed. *The* has torch—Another figure labeled both *A* and *An*.

A Spelling Dictionary divided into Short Lessons For the Easier Committing to Memory by Children and Young Persons and Calculated to assist Youth in Comprehending What they Read Selected from Johnson's Dictionary for the Use of her Pupils by Susanna Rowson.

When we have taught children to read, however accurately they may pronounce, however attentive they may be to the punctuation, we have done nothing toward the information of their minds, unless we teach them to associate ideas, and this can never be done if they do not understand the exact meaning of every word.—Boston, 1804.

The Young Gentlemen's Monitor and English Teacher's Assistant being a Collection of Selected Pieces from our best Modern Writers Calculated to Eradicate Vulgar Prejudices and Rusticity of Manners, Improve the Understanding, Rectify the Will; Purify the Passions; Direct the Minds of Youth to the Pursuit of Proper Objects; and to facilitate their Reading, Writing and Speaking the English Language with Elegance and Propriety.

Particularly adapted for the use of our Eminent Schools and Academies as well as private Persons who have not an Opportunity of perusing the Works of those celebrated Authors, from whence this Collection is made Divided into Small Portions for the Use of Reading in Class. J. Hamilton Morse.—1809.

Cobwebs to Catch Flies or Dialogues in Short Sentences adapted to Children from the Age of three to eight Years.—New York, 1834.

Limed Twigs to Catch Young Birds By the authors of original poems, Rhymes for the Nursery etc.—Philadelphia, 1811.

The Young Voyager to the South Seas Part I Visit to Georgian Islands—The dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty, Ps. LXXIV (also quoted: I: XLII). Frontispiece: View of missionary settlement in Borabora.

Part II Scenes in the Georgian Islands. Frontispiece: Bread fruit—Men shall wor-

ship the Lord every one from his place, *even all the Isles of the heathen*—Zephaniah.—New Haven, 1832.

The Pirates A Tale for the Amusement and Instruction of Youth Embellished with cuts to which is added several select Pieces in Prose and Verse by Noah Webster.—Philadelphia, 1813.

Peter Piper Practical Principles of Plain and Perfect Pronunciation (Opposite the familiar "Peter Piper—" is an illustration of a man displaying an empty peck measure.)

Extract:

Quixote Quicksight quiz'd a queerish quid-box  
Did Quixote Quicksight quiz a queerish quid-box?

If Quixote Quicksight quiz'd a queerish quid-box,

Where's the queerish quid-box Quixote Quicksight quiz'd?

—Philadelphia, 1836.

Peter Prim's Profitable Present to the Little Misses and Masters of the United States

Extracts:

One—Two

Come buckle my Shoe

You lazy Elf

Pray do it yourself

(Illustration: Boy in blue at desk, smirking self-righteously at girl in yellow who holds up her foot towards him.)

Three—Four

Shut the door

Let us keep ourselves warm

And not think of the storm

Illustration: Children gathered around fireplace, boy eating from bowl in lap, smallest child shutting door.

A Kid a Kid or the Jewish Origin of the Celebrated Legend of the House that Jack Built.—New York, 1835.

Juvenile Trials for Robbing Orchards, Telling Fibs and Other Offences Recommended by the author of Evenings at Home.

Frontispiece: "She caught me by the hair and began lugging and cuffing me" (Boy has apparently stolen cakes from the woman's cake shop; one boy looks on and another flees behind shop).—Philadelphia, 1801.

Cries of New York

Extract:

"New Meeleck! Come Meeleck, Come!"

Here's new Milk from the Cow

Which is so nice and so fine

That the doctors do say

It is much better than wine

Extract from Footnote: Cows are pastured on the islands of New York, some along the Jersey shore large droves on Long Island. Sells at from 4 cents to 6 cents a quart. In warm weather churns on wheelbarrows pushed by colored men, mostly from Bergen in Jersey, who call "Butter meeleck!"—No date given.

Extract:

Sand O! nice

S-A-N-D! Here's your white S-A-N-D!"

Sand, O! white Sand, O!

Buy Sand for your floor

For so cleanly it looks

When strew'd at your door.

Footnote: This sand is brought from the sea-shore in vessels, principally from Rockaway Beach, Long Is. It is loaded into carts, and carried about the streets of N. Y. and sold for about 12½ cents per bushel. Almost every little girl or boy knows that it is put on newly scrubbed floors, to preserve them clean and pleasant. But since people have become rich, and swayed by the vain fashions of the world, by carpeting the floors of their houses, there does not appear to be so much use for Sand, as in the days of our worthy ancestors.

A Little Pretty Pocket-Book intended for the Instruction and Amusement of Little Master Tommy and Pretty Miss Polly, with two Letters from Jack the Giant-Killer as also a Ball and a Pincushion; the Use of which will infallibly make Tommy a good Boy and Polly a good Girl To which is added, a Little Song-Book, being a new Attempt to teach Children the Use of the English Alphabet by way of Diversion The first Worcester edition.—Isiah Thomas, Worcester MDCC-LXXXVII.

The School of Good Manners Composed for the Help of Parents in teaching Children how to carry it in their Places during their Minority.—Boston, 1772.

The Prodigal Daughter Or a strange and wonderful relation, showing how a Gentleman of a vast estate in Bristol, had a proud and disobedient Daughter, who because her parents would not support her in all her extravagance, bargained with the Devil to poison them. How an Angel informed her parents of her design. How she lay in a trance four days; and when she was put in the grave, she came to life again etc. (Picture shows daughter rising from coffin in front of robed minister, mother weilding a huge kerchief.)—Boston, 1771.

Hieroglyphical Bible showing two trees: The Hieroglyphics of a Christian (Fruit labeled Joy etc., Grace shining at top, angels under tree) and Hieroglyphics of Natural Man (Fruit labeled Scorn etc., Wrath lowering over top, serpent coiled in branches).

Sacred Dreams: Chiefly intended for Young Persons The Subjects taken from the Bible by Hannah More To which is added A Pastoral Dream by the same author.

The Way to Get Married; and the Advantages and Disadvantages of the Married State; Represented under the similitude of a Dream To which is added A Father's Legacy to his Daughters.—Philadelphia, 1806.

A Wedding Ring Fit for the Finger Or, the Salvé of Divinity on the Sore of Humanity with Directions to those Men that want Wives, how to Choose them; and to those Women that have Husbands, how to Use them. Laid open in a Sermon at a Wedding in Edmonton by Wm. Secker, Preacher of the Gospel.—Boston, 1705.

Extraordinary Life and Adventure of Robin Hood, Captain of Robbers of Sherwood Forest Interspersed with the History of Little John and his Merry Men all (Picture of Robin Hood and Maid Marion).—New York, 1823.

New History of Blue Beard written by Gaffer Black Beard for the amusement of Little Lack Beard and his Pretty Sisters.—1804.

The Entertaining and Interesting Story of ALI-BABA the Wood Cutter with the Death of the FORTY THIEVES, and the Overthrow of their Protector ORCOBRAN and Evil Genius of the Forest.

(Frontispiece: The Cave of Plunder—palm tree on top and bags of gold and golden swords inside.)

MOTHERLESS MARY or the Interesting HISTORY OF A FRIENDLESS ORPHAN who Being at her Mother's Death, left entirely destitute, is TAKEN TO THE PARISH WORKHOUSE. Through an act of Honesty, she is PLACED IN THE FAMILY OF MRS. BOUVERIE where she becomes, unintentionally, the Rival of Miss Bouverie, by whose Stratagems she is DECEYED TO LONDON, the Perilous Situation she is placed in there, and the singular Events by which MARY RECOVERS HER FATHER, the History of her Mother, and the Circumstances which led to her distress, and unfortunate Death, the TERMINATION OF MARY'S TROUBLES, and HER HAPPY UNION WITH HENRY BOUVERIE.—S. King, New York, 1828.

Cinderella or the Little Glass Slipper, a Grand Allegorical Pantomimic Spectacle as performed at the Philadelphia Theater Published by D. Longworth at the Dramatic Repository Shakespeare-Gallery.—New York, 1807.

The Wonderful Life and Surprising Adventures of that Renowned Hero Robinson Crusoe, who lived twenty-eight years on an Uninhabited Island which he afterwards colonized.—Boston, 1792 also New York, 1792.

Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, Versified; for the Entertainment and Instruction of Youth. By George Burder, author of Village Sermons.—Hartwick, 1818.

Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress from the world to that which is to come, Exhibit in a Metamorphosis or a Transformation of pictures To which is added The Christian Triumph over Death etc.

(Pictures have extra bottom and top leaves which, folded over, change the character of the illustrations.)—Hartford, 1821.

Divine Songs, Attempted in Easy Language for the Use of Children By I. Watts D. D. Matthew XXI 16 Out of the Mouths of Babes and Sucklings Thou hast perfected Praise.—Baltimore, 1801.

Moral Tales in three volumes by Maria Edgeworth.—New York, 1826.

The Barring Out; or Party Spirit by Maria Edgeworth author of practical education and letters for little ladies.—Philadelphia, 1801.

(Frontispiece: Men or boys in room around table, utensils thrown on floor, hats and coats hung on nails above benches, windows and door barred shut, from above apparently through trap-door man pouring floods of water from a sprinkling can.)

History of Little Goody Twoshoes; otherwise called Mrs. Margery Twoshoes with the Means by which she Acquired her Learning and Wisdom, and in Consequence thereof, her Estate. Set forth at large for the Benefit of those

Who for a state of Rags and Care,  
And having Shoes but half a pair,  
Their Fortune and their Fame would fix  
And gallop in their Coach and six

See the original manuscript in the Vatican at Rome and the Cuts by Michael Angelo; illustrated with Comments of our great modern Criticks.

The first Worcester edition—Isaiah Thomas MDCCLXXXVII.

The Reprobates Reward or a Looking-Glass for Disobedient Children Being a full and true Account of the barbarous and bloody Murder of one Elizabeth Wood, living in the city of Cork, by her own Son, as she was riding upon the 26th day of July, to Kings gate Market. How he cut her throat from ear to ear; as also how the murder was found out by her apparition or ghost; the manner of his being taken; his dying words at the place of execution; with a true copy of verses written in his own hand in Cork jail, being a warning to all disobedient Children to repent, and obey their Parents.—Philadelphia, 1798.

The Paths of Virtue Delineated or the History in Miniature of the Celebrated Clarissa Harlowe, Familiarized and adapted To the Capacities of Youth.

Great blessings ever wait on virtuous deeds  
And, though a late, a sure reward succeeds.

Congreve—Philadelphia, MDCCXCI.

CARRIE BELLE PARKS

## CREATIVE WORK IN LITERATURE AND MUSIC

IT STARTED with the program the children gave in the auditorium early in January. In this program all the girls were fairies and all the boys brownies. They sang songs, played games, made up the kind of dance fairies ought to dance, and recited poems about fairies and brownies.

Later in the month they recalled the program and talked about the various things they had done then. The teacher showed a number of fairy pictures at this time and read a number of fairy poems to the children. Both pictures and poems were freely discussed. Then the teacher suggested that since some of the poems had been made up by little girls (Rose Fyleman and Hilda Conkling) that perhaps they could do the same. For quite a while there were no results other than the keen enjoyment of the children in both pictures and poems. In fact the time to go home came without any inspiration. But as the children were pre-