

THE BOOK  
OF  
KNOWLEDGE



*The*  
BOOK  
*of*  
KNOWLEDGE

DEPARTMENTS

The Earth  
Stories and Legends  
All Countries  
Golden Deeds  
Book of Wonder  
Literature  
Animal Life  
Famous Books  
Dominion of Canada  
The United States  
Familiar Things  
Our Own Life  
The Fine Arts  
Men and Women  
Poetry and Rhymes  
Plant Life  
Things to Make  
and Things to Do

*The Children's Encyclopedia*

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

HOLLAND THOMPSON, Ph.D., LL.D.

The College of the City of New York  
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ARTHUR MEE

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E. V. McLOUGHLIN, A. B.

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This is a short guide to the principal contents of this volume. It is not possible to give all of the questions in *The Book of Wonder*, or the titles of all of the *Little Verses and Problems*, but in all cases the pages are given where such sections of the book begin. In the big Index, Volume 20, you will find every title and every subject, including the pictures.

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## Introduction

**R**EADING these books in my mature years, but calling my boyhood self to sit beside me in the reading, I realize what they would have brought to him in those long gone days on the prairies. What I cannot now carry to him, my boyhood self, except as he lives with me in the city or wherever I go in these grown-up days, I can in some measure help to bring to those who are now as he was then; and so I most gladly accept the invitation to write a few words of introduction, though I think that not many of the numberless readers of these volumes, young or old, will stand at the door very long, listening to any one telling of what is within, for every boy or girl, even if grown into man or woman, will find something of compelling interest in these pages. My own lads played no ball the day these books were brought home, nor did they wait to hear my preface, so eager were they to see and to read the articles themselves.

I read these books first in the midst of the busy, noisy, distracting city, and I found myself thinking that their pages were like automobiles, or aeroplanes or street cars or railway trains, carrying the city child into the country among the trees and rocks and birds and brooks and grass and mountains and clouds, where he could see and hear about the wonders of Nature. I read them again on top of a hill, underneath an oak tree, seated on a rock, where I could see mountains all the way round on the horizon; and then I thought how these magic volumes would bring all the great achievements of man, the wonders of his inventing and discovering, to those shut in by the mountains or by the sky on a little patch of flat plain or prairie.

So I am glad to introduce these books to the boys and girls in America, both of the country and of the city, that they may know something of the heritage which comes to them from being born in this world full of mystery, and upon this earth where billions upon billions have lived and left each a little, at least, for those coming after them,—a heritage which is for the most part beyond the reach of the unaided senses of these boys and girls, and which they can occupy as their own only by the help of those who have added the lenses of microscopes and telescopes and other instruments to the lenses of their eyes, who have read in rocks or bones or words the memories of the ages gone, or who have traveled far beyond their horizons in the present. And it is a happy fact that any boy or girl who has a good mind can, with such help, have that great and wonderful and beautiful world added to what he or she can actually see or hear or touch or smell or taste,—added to a little stretch of city, or village street or a few square miles of farm land.

What these books bring is not to take the place of a hard disciplining of the mind. The ability to perform such deeds as are here related comes not merely by reading of them. That power is developed only by days and nights of work and sacrifice. No amount of mere information can make up for the lack of these, as no amount of reading about the water will in itself qualify one to swim or to build a