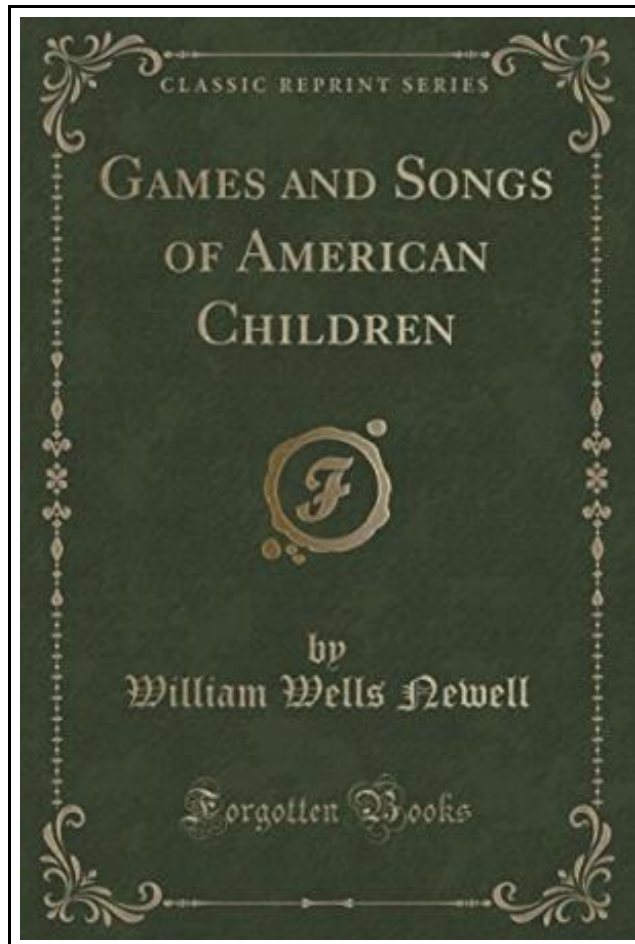


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Games and Songs of American Children The gleanings now reprinted from plates is subject to imperfections perhaps pardonable in a survey of unexplored territory. Two decades ago, quite by accident, my attention was drawn to the existence of material for the most part unrecorded on either side of the Atlantic; after brief inquiry, I was surprised to find myself in possession of matter which I thought as interesting as it was novel. If the presentation shows an idyllic tinge, enthusiasm must be my excuse; indeed, admitting a basis of primitive barbarism, the songs belong to a period in which the crude ore had been so successfully refined that, even from a literary point of view, some of the rhymes will continue to be esteemed as a treasure of the language. Eleven years later, the abundant and admirable gathering of Mrs. Gomme furnished means for comparison; it then appeared that between British and American usages of play existed a correspondence approaching identity. Contrary to the relation indicated by previous knowledge, it became apparent that the stream of childish tradition continued to flow abundantly in England; Mrs. Gomme, aided by competent collaborators, was able by direct observation to describe the movement and action of the games more perfectly than had been possible for myself, who had been obliged to depend chiefly on the reminiscence of grown persons. On the other hand, to this very manner of record was due a measure of freedom from recent vulgarity, while some important songs are better preserved in American variants, or even are altogether unknown in the mother country; accordingly, in order to understand English custom, it will always be necessary...



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