

**THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY  
PEDAGOGICAL SERIES; VOLUME  
III. TEACHERS MANUAL OF  
PRIMARY METHODS**

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The Catholic University Pedagogical Series; Volume III. Teachers Manual of Primary Methods  
by Thomas Edward Shields

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**THOMAS EDWARD SHIELDS**

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**VOLUME III**

**TEACHERS MANUAL OF  
PRIMARY METHODS**

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# TEACHERS MANUAL OF PRIMARY METHODS

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in

The Catholic University of America

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**To the Alumnae of the  
Sisters College  
of the  
Catholic University of America**

*Whose joy it is to spend themselves in bringing to the children of this generation the blessed privilege of hearing from the lips of the Master the gracious invitation, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God"*

**This book  
is lovingly dedicated**

## PREFACE

The social and economic changes of the last few decades have weakened the home and placed a new burden upon the school. In the industrial home of the past the child received a sensory-motor training which formed the basis of his education. The school was called upon to add the formal elements only. In the olden days the child was called upon to contribute through his industry in many home occupations to the support of the family; to-day, he is deprived, for the most part, of the opportunity to grow in usefulness and independence. The school must meet these new needs of the children: and the burden in this respect falls heaviest on the primary grades. The food material for the minds and hearts of the children that was formerly supplied by the home must now be furnished in the school. Old methods no longer suffice. The scientific achievements which have so profoundly changed the adult world must also be made to furnish forth the means whereby the school will be enabled to adjust the child to his new environment.

It is a mistake to suppose that the teacher is the only factor in the educative process affected by these changes. Her methods must be transformed so as to meet the present needs, but it is still more important that the text-book which is placed in the hands of the children should conform strictly to the same requirements of method. The teacher should be able to look to the text-book for the proper sequence in the materials to be presented no less than for the proper method of pre-

senting each new truth. During the past few decades much has been written and said concerning primary methods, but little of this found expression in primary text-books. The teachers in our Catholic schools throughout the land frequently complain of the quality of the text-books which they are obliged to use. It has often been pointed out that whereas purely secular subjects were presented in attractive form, the truths of religion were reduced to unintelligible theological formulae and presented to the children in the unattractive garb of the catechism.

When, a few years ago, the Department of Education was established in the Catholic University, it was felt by those placed in charge of it that the most important work which it should undertake was a revision of primary text-books so as to render them both scientific and Catholic, and a revision of primary methods which would render our work fruitful in placing religion in the heart of the curriculum and in giving to it the preponderating influence which it should have in the developing minds and hearts of Catholic children.

The Catholic Education Series of primary text-books was first undertaken. The first four volumes of this series have already been issued. The remaining volumes are in preparation. To derive the full benefit from the use of these books the teachers have felt the need of a manual of method which would set forth the principles of method involved and the aims which the authors of these primary text-books sought to attain. The present volume is an answer to requests frequently expressed by the primary teachers who have been using the Catholic Education Series with good results, but who feel that