# HISTORY OF THE PHILOSOPHY OF PEDAGOGICS

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History of the Philosophy of Pedagogics by Charles Wesley Bennett

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## **CHARLES WESLEY BENNETT**

# HISTORY OF THE PHILOSOPHY OF PEDAGOGICS

Trieste

## HISTORY

-OF THE-

## PHILOSOPHY OF PEDAGOGICS

-BY-

CHARLES WESLEY BENNETT, LL.D.

LATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORIC THEOLOGY IN GARRETT BIBLICAL INSTITUTE



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## PREFACE

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In the following brief sketch I have used whatever material and sources were to me available. I have not hesitated often to use the exact language of an author when this clearly expressed my meaning. If I have not, by proper marks, always indicated this my indebtedness, it will be excused in an essay of this character, laying no claim whatever to originality. I have been most indebted to the masterly treatises of von Raumer, Schmidt and Goldammer, and I desire to recommend most heartily these authors as thorough and exhaustive.

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## History of the Philosophy of Pedagogics

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#### INTRODUCTION

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The subject is a most difficult one, as will appear from an analysis.

1. History means primarily "inquiry," "investigation,"—and then is applied to the results of this inquiry and investigation. Perhaps Cousin's definition may be good enough. "History is a complete and systematically arranged account of the successive and simultaneous developments of all the elements that constitute humanity." ["Introduction to Study of Philosophy," p. 7.]

2. Philosophy may be variously defined, but there is in all these diverse definitions a germinal unity. It has been called the "Science of Principles," "The explanation of the reason of things," "A collection of general laws under which all subordinate

#### HISTORY OF PEDAGOGICS

phenomena are comprehended." "The study of universal and necessary principles considered under their different aspects, and in the great problems which they solve, is almost the whole of philosophy—it fills it, measures it, divides it." [Cousin, "Free, Beautiful and Good." Sect. I, p. 50.] "Philosophy is reflection, elevated to the rank and authority of method."

3. Pedagogics is the science and art of so developing, by means of conscious influence on the physical, intellectual, and moral powers of man, the ideas of truth, freedom, and love that lie at the foundation of his god-derived nature, that he can meet spontaneously, and independently, his human responsibilities." (Schmidt, "Gesch. d. Erziehung," p. 1.)

We are, then, assigned the following task — "to give a complete and systematically arranged account of the general and necessary principles and laws by which there has been developed, by a conscious influence on the physical, intellectual and moral powers of the unfolding man, those ideas of truth, freedom and love that lie at the foundation of his god-derived nature, so that he can

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### THE REFORMERS AS EDUCATORS

spontaneously and independently meet human responsibilities."

You will immediately perceive that the field is too vast even for the most cursory examination within the time allotted to us. I have, after considerable reflection, concluded to pass by the history of the nations of antiquity, to omit all examination of the educational theories of the Christian Fathers in the Romish and Byzantine Churches, as well as the struggles of mediæval times, marvellous as they were, and briefly touch upon some of the most important and influential systems that have appeared in the Post-Reformation period.

#### I. THE REFORMERS AS EDUCATORS

A revolution in thought and life so radical and far-reaching as that of the Reformation of the 16th Century, could not leave the great subject of educational methods unexamined. The contrasts between the mediæval or church spirit, and the spirit of the new era, were sharp and irreconcilable.

1. It was the subjective vs. the objective.

2. It was the life of man in God and the life