

**LEONARD
AND GERTRUDE**

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Leonard and Gertrude by Eva Channig

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EVA CHANNIG

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Heath's Pedagogical Library — 6

PESTALOZZI'S

LEONARD AND GERTRUDE

TRANSLATED AND ABRIDGED

BY

EVA CHANNING.



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1908

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TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

PESTALOZZI'S "Leonard and Gertrude" was first published in the year 1781, when about one fourth of the whole work appeared. Three more volumes came out in 1783, 1785 and 1787. In 1790-92 a second edition, revised and condensed by the author, appeared in three volumes. When Pestalozzi collected his works, and had them published by Cotta in Stuttgart (1819-26), he remodelled the first edition, especially the last three volumes, expanding it to such a degree that the whole work was intended to occupy six volumes. Of these, only the first four appeared, the manuscript of the fifth being lost after the author's death. Seyffarth's more modern edition, which fills five volumes, aims to hold fast to what is best in the first edition, without losing sight of the added material in the third, often calling attention in the notes to the divergence of the two.

An abridged translation of "Leonard and Gertrude" is beset with many difficulties, since the different editions vary considerably from each other, and it is impossible to hold to one of them consistently throughout. In the preparation of the present book, the only accessible material was the following: the cheap Reclam edition, comprising the first two volumes alone, and following in the main the original edition; the expanded but incomplete Cotta edition; the eclectic edition of Seyffarth in five volumes; and the latter's shortened popular version in one volume (1874), which, however, was far too prolix to serve as the

basis of the present book. Vol. VII of the "American Journal of Education" (1859) contains a very literal English translation of the original first volume (a reprint of the London translation of 1824, with corrections), beside extracts from later portions of the work, regarding the school in Bonnal; these last are translated by Mr. Frederick B. Perkins, from a work by Christoffel which has extracts from the first edition. This volume of the Journal also gives a useful list of publications by and relating to Pestalozzi.

A more diffuse and tedious style than Pestalozzi's can hardly be imagined, as the reader can convince himself by turning to the London translation above mentioned. Despite the high moral tone, sound common sense, and rare insight into human character which are everywhere displayed, it is impossible to read half a dozen pages without a disposition to yawn. This circumstance, added to the unwieldy dimensions of the work, may serve as some excuse for the wholesale process of abridgment adopted in the present volume. Owing to this condensation, much of the quaint simplicity of the original has of necessity been sacrificed, although it has been retained to some degree in the dialogues. The scenes with Gertrude and her children have suffered the least mutilation of any in the book, since they are not only among the most charming, but also possess the greatest value from an educational point of view.

Externally, "Leonard and Gertrude" occupies a somewhat peculiar position in literature, since it is neither precisely a story, nor a pedagogical treatise. It might rather be called a realistic picture of Swiss peasant life in the last century, which if not of absorbing interest, yet contains much that is curious and instructive concerning old manners and customs. But the moral value of the work is far more than this. The village of Bonnal is intended to typify the world, and in describing the measures

taken to reform the corruption and raise the moral standard of this little community, the author expresses his views on some of the greatest social and political questions of all ages. His opinions and theories on educational topics are scattered incidentally throughout the book, although they find their fullest expression in Chapters VIII, X, XVI, XVII, XXIII, XXV, XXXI, XXXII.

We cannot help being struck with the high esteem in which woman is held by Pestalozzi. In Gertrude he has not only painted the loving wife and mother, the charitable neighbor, and the thrifty housekeeper; but he has made her a pattern of high moral rectitude, endowed her with remarkable executive ability, and given her an intellectual clear-sightedness of a very high order. Thus it is Gertrude alone who originates the improved system of education which is afterward transferred to the Bonnal school. Furthermore, after adopting her principles, the organizers of the new school declare that the coöperation of her mother's heart is essential to insure its success, notwithstanding that the schoolmaster will bring a father's heart into his new vocation. We also find a striking tribute to the sound judgment of enlightened womanhood, in the provision made by Arner, that the commission appointed to investigate the value of the innovations in Bonnal shall include women of various classes, "who shall view the matter with their woman's eyes, and be sure that there is nothing visionary in the background."

It is hoped that the present shortened version of "Leonard and Gertrude," despite its many imperfections, may secure for this remarkable book of a remarkable man a still wider and more appreciative circle of readers than it has hitherto found.

