

**EPITOME OF SOME OF THE CHIEF EVENTS AND
TRANSACTIONS IN THE LIFE OF JOSEPH
LANCASTER: CONTAINING AN ACCOUNT OF
THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF THE
LANCASTERIAN SYSTEM OF EDUCATION, AND
THE AUTHOR'S FUTURE PROSPECTS OF
USEFULNESS TO MANKIND**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649325269

Epitome of some of the chief events and transactions in the life of Joseph Lancaster: containing an account of the rise and progress of the Lancasterian system of education, and the author's future prospects of usefulness to mankind by Joseph Lancaster

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JOSEPH LANCASTER

**EPITOME OF SOME OF THE CHIEF EVENTS AND
TRANSACTIONS IN THE LIFE OF JOSEPH
LANCASTER: CONTAINING AN ACCOUNT OF
THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF THE
LANCASTERIAN SYSTEM OF EDUCATION, AND
THE AUTHOR'S FUTURE PROSPECTS OF
USEFULNESS TO MANKIND**

Lancaster, Joseph.

EPITOME
OF SOME OF THE
CHIEF EVENTS AND TRANSACTIONS
IN THE
LIFE OF JOSEPH LANCASTER,
CONTAINING AN
ACCOUNT OF THE RISE AND PROGRESS
OF THE
LANCASTERIAN SYSTEM OF EDUCATION;
AND
THE AUTHOR'S FUTURE PROSPECTS OF USEFULNESS TO
MANKIND;
WRITTEN BY HIMSELF,
AND PUBLISHED TO PROMOTE THE EDUCATION OF HIS
FAMILY.

Thy mercy o'er my life has flowed,
That mercy I adore;
I thank thee for thy mercies past,
And humbly hope for more.

NEW-HAVEN,
PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR BY BALDWIN & PECK.
Sold also in New-York by Carvill & Co. Broadway; — Francis, Broadway;
and C. J. Gayler, 102, Water-street.

1833.

Special
Collections
LB675
.L3A5

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
MERICK C. GERMAN LIBRARY

1863 1863 31.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in 1833, by JOSEPH LANCASTER,
as the property of John Alfred Lancaster Robinson, a native of Philadel-
phia, in the Clerk's Office for the District of Connecticut.

Just Published, price 25 cents,

An Epitome of the Life of JOSEPH LANCASTER, containing an account of the rise and progress of the Lancastrian System of Education, and the Author's future prospects of usefulness to mankind.

Written by himself, and published to promote the education of his own children.

May be had of the following booksellers:—G. & C. & H. CARVILL, Broadway; C. S. FRANCIS, Broadway; D. APPLETON & Co., Broadway; GOODRICH & WILEY, Broadway; LEAVITT, LORD & Co., Broadway; BARTLETT & RAYNOR, Bowery; and C. J. GAYLER, 102 Water-street.

REMARKABLE CONTENTS.

Peculiarities attending the commencement of the System.—Extension of the School.—Improvements of the plan of Instruction.—Seminary of Teachers.—Domestic Affliction.—Arrival in America.—*De Witt Clinton*.—Noble conduct of Congress.—Pupils trained as Teachers.—James Penny—Maurice Cross, of Belfast.—J. E. Lovell, of New Haven, Conn. Teachers of tens of thousands of youth in succession.—C. J. Gayler, and Salamander Chests for Archives.—Extension of System over the world.—School in Ceylon, three hundred faces, not two of one colour.—*University of Living Languages*.—Appeals of pupils in grateful affection for J. L.—Near thirty honourable testimonials from the first men of the age, to the benefits of the Lancastrian System.—Original Letters from Bolivar, De Witt Clinton, &c. &c.—Bolivar's bill of 20,000 dollars, (at this date,) still dishonoured in London.—The Bell and History of Lectures, (an amusing item.)—Singular document attesting, by Lord Aylmer, any public notaries, new and remarkable improvements in Education.—The benevolent *Joseph Fletcher's* original appeal in London, and remarkable subscription list.—J. Lancaster's recent reception at New-Haven.—New-York.—Subscription list.—Singular preservation of important records from fire, &c.—The whole interspersed with remarkable and instructive anecdotes.

[Turn Over.

Special

A VOICE FROM THE TOMB OF DE WITT CLINTON.

Speech of De Witt Clinton, on opening the enlarged free school at New-York, 1810.—“I confess that I recognize in Lancaster the benefactor of the human race. I consider his system as creating a new era in education, as a blessing sent down from heaven to redeem the poor and distressed of this world from the power and dominion of ignorance. Although the merits of this epistle of benevolence have been generally acknowledged in his own country, and he has received the commendance and protection of the best men in Great Britain, yet *calumny* has lifted up her voice against him, and attempts have been made to rob him of his laurels.”

Message to the Legislature of New-York, 1818.—“Having participated in the first establishment of the Lancasterian system in this country—having carefully observed its progress, and witnessed its benefits, I can confidently recommend it as an invaluable improvement, which, by a wonderful combination of economy in expense, and rapidity of instruction, has created a new era in Education. This system operates with the same efficacy in Education, that labor-saving machinery does in the useful arts. It will be readily perceived that it is peculiarly adapted to this country.”—See *Dr. Hosack's Life of De Witt Clinton.*

IN MEMORY OF DE WITT CLINTON.

Many, *my friend*, have mourned for thee,
And yet shall many mourn,
Long as thy name on earth may be
In sweet remembrance borne,
By those who loved thee here, and love
Thy spirit still—in realms above,
Beyond thy tomb I lift mine eye,
Thou art not dead! thou couldst not die—
To nobler life new born,
Thou look'st in pity from the sky,
Upon a world forlorn—
Where glory is but dying fame—
An immortality—A NAME!
MONTGOMERY.

LOVELL COTTAGE, New-Haven, Conn. }
14th of 11th month, 1833. }

TO THE PUBLIC.

FRIENDS :

THIS brief Epitome of the outlines of the remarkable events of my life, is now published, not as a perfect or full detail, but as adequate to its intended purpose, to promote the proposal of a subscription for a publication, containing further improvements in Education ;—a publication which may contribute to the present support of my family, while the proceeds of this tract will aid in the education of my own beloved children ; a duty which, as I am now advancing in life, I wish *fully* to perform while it is yet day.

One motive for making this epitome no larger is, that I am obliged to seek aid for my family as early as possible, and cannot, therefore, delay the work for leisure and augmentation. Many are the facts omitted ; but a number which were utterly unknown before, are now communicated to the public for the first time, in a regular though not finished series.

Another reason for making this publication so brief, is the unwillingness common to any burnt child, to put his fingers needlessly in the fire a second time ;—an unwillingness arising from having deeply suffered by many attempts to do good, or speculate beyond actual means, and a reluctance to sell a copy-right which may ultimately benefit my own children ; as the manuscript contains matter enough to interest a world, and relates to many characters and transactions of the age, for above the fourth part of this century, all honorable, and all connected with the progress of education.

Human life is often a specimen of mixture and imperfection ; and for my errors, whatever they are, I make neither excuses, palliations, or defence. I say, earth to earth, dust to dust, over them, with all my heart. Of my usefulness, I cast down all my glory at the feet of Him who called me into being by his power, endowed me with talents, and redeemed me by his blood.

Of what has *man* to glory ? Of what has *man* to boast ?

Were my usefulness multiplied by millions, still I should be an unit among the thousand millions of immortal beings who in succession enter on their career of probation in this world, ultimately to join the general assembly of all creation, in the eternity of being. I have heard of humility as by tradition; I have been taught in the furnace of affliction the true value of it, so far, that I can look over this epitome of my life, which I now give to the world for the good of my own children, and say, in resignation to my bountiful Creator,—

In each event of life,
How clear thy ruling hand I see!
Each blessing still more dear,
Because conferred by Thee.

Great causes have sprang up from small beginnings. The Giver of summer and winter, seed-time and harvest, has been pleased, whilst he mercifully “tempered the wind to the shorn lamb,” to remember one who has loved the little ones of his universal flock and family, and at times to bless with serenity and peace, a mind often afflicted, and so circumstanced as to be “tossed with tempests, and not comforted,” and to give, in the hours of gloominess and sorrow, the Redeemer’s peace,—

The soul’s calm sunshine, and the heartfelt joy,
True virtue’s prize.

“Feeling has no fellow.” It is superior to all mathematical demonstration; for pain of body or mind regulates not itself by problems or diagrams, nor does joy or consolation form itself out of cubes, squares or triangles. Those who feel their Redeemer speak peace, and calm the tempest of the soul, may justly believe and praise his name, who still speaks as never man spake. It is an healing gift,—heaven’s balm for all sorrow,—heavenly medicine for all wounds. If I do not *now* publicly praise the name of Him who sitteth on the throne, and the Lamb, the little children who sang Hallelujah to the Prince of Life, in the temple of Jerusalem, might justly arise and say, that I am guilty of ingratitude,—high treason of the human heart against the Majesty of Heaven. Such, I hope, will never be the choice of a sincere friend of the youth of all nations.

JOSEPH LANCASTER.

EPITOME, &c.

Peculiarities attending the commencement of his experiments.

JOSEPH LANCASTER, the son of an industrious man, with a large family, was born in the vicinity of London, in the close of the year 1778. The circumstances of his friends were decent and comfortable, but still not so far above the poor as to open the prospects of ambition, or fan the spark of human pride into an early or premature flame. He was born in that class of society which was most favorable of all others to his future usefulness.

His parental home was in a neighborhood in which resided many poor families, who once had seen the sunshine of brighter days, and who had become the victims of loss and suffering, which marred their happier prospects and the education of their children together. That is to say, Joseph Lancaster was born and reared, as if by a predisposition of Providence, in a spot which seemed as one of the best that could have been selected on earth, in which to commence an experiment calculated to promote the education of millions. Corruption and poverty there abode together, as if twin children of the same family. The Edinburgh Review of 1806 compared in substance the location—the planting of this first school, this tree of knowledge in the garden of corruption,—to “a drop of healing oil” seated in the midst of a miserable wound, diffusing health and dispelling inflammation around it.

The destination which his pious Calvinistic friends gave him was college education for the ministry. But though young, he was deeply thoughtful, and after considering things well, preferred the principles advocated by FOX, PENN, and BARCLAY, to all others. He weighed these things for years, but when once decided, he made no hesitation of sacrificing his prospects in life to the free exercise of his conscience. Thus he was left, at 18 years of age, without a settled pursuit or profession. His father's mechanical business was irksome to him; and his parents, disappointed in the desire of their heart, felt reluctant to solicit further patronage, or enter into any new plans: but his father used to say, “There is something behind the cloud” on his prospects. In 1798, he obtained from his father the use of a room, in which he might keep a *cheap school* for the poor of the neighborhood. This proposal met his kind approbation, and that of the neighbors on every hand. The price was so low as to be a great relief to those who had seen better days and felt sorrowful changes. By assiduity and kindness, he gained the hearts of his pupils, and the school increased, so as repeatedly to occasion its removal to more capacious buildings.

As many of the parents of his pupils were still under the burthen of distress, he soon found that arrears of pay accumulated. He visited these families at their own houses, and generally told the parents to send