THE TEACHER AS ARTIST: AN ESSAY IN EDUCATION AS AN AESTHETIC PROCESS

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The Teacher as Artist: An Essay in Education as an Aesthetic Process by Herman Harrell Horne

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HERMAN HARRELL HORNE

THE TEACHER AS ARTIST: AN ESSAY IN EDUCATION AS AN AESTHETIC PROCESS



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EDITED BY HENRY SUZZALLO PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, SEATTLE

THE TEACHER AS ARTIST

AN ESSAY IN EDUCATION AS AN
ASTHETIC PROCESS

BY

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PREFACE

In the following pages the first essay raises the question whether the art of teaching may in a measure become one of the fine arts, and answers in the affirmative, under certain conditions. What these conditions are the second essay attempts to set forth. Though the æsthetic experience is complex and difficult to analyze, I have endeavored to be as intelligible as the subject itself allows, having in mind busy teachers who have neither the time nor the inclination to puzzle over unnecessary difficulties.

That the standard here set up for the teaching process is high, perhaps too high for general attainment yet awhile, is admitted; yet we may steer by the stars. My idealistic writings on education have been criticized for lifting the standards too high, "putting the teacher on a pedestal," and seeing philosophical significance in "mere pedagogy." The charge is well founded

PREFACE

— unless you who read, having the eternal perfection in your hearts, prove otherwise by your beautiful work in shaping individuals and society.

H. H. H.

LEONIA, NEW JERREY , October 1916

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EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

THERE are many teachers who are good artisans; there are only a few who are fine artists. All teachers who are successful enough to hold their appointments possess the useful power to transform human nature so that it is better informed, more moral, and more effectively active than before. But the process by which these valuable results are brought about may have been more or less mechanical and quite unpleasing to the pupil. The pupil himself, well informed, thoughtful, and dynamic, may not be a wholesome and attractive personality. The process and the product of the finely artistic teacher are vastly different. He teaches, he is inspiring and genial, and those who study and labor under his guidance do so with spontaneity and affection. The men and women he rears are more than strong and forceful, learned and skillful; they are harmoniously developed personalities, wholesome and charming, for whom "the world steps aside"

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

more than half the time. The fine artist in the classroom differs from the mere artisan in more things than degree of ability. There is a difference both of aim and of method.

There was an older type of education that made of every man it touched the scholar and gentleman. Too often our newer type of school training makes only the scholar and omits the gentleman. It is the blend of the two at which the truly artistic teacher aims. However narrow the field of study may seem to be, this master pursues his specialty with a reverent regard for relationships and settings. He gives a liberal education in a single course. His treatment is specialized but never narrowing. Into the classroom he brings a character as well as a mind. He conveys both values and truths. In him there is no forgetfulness of the man, the gentleman, in whom the trained mind is to reside. While his direct and obvious business is to make a thinker, he never forgets the more important obligation of training character. His objective is nothing less than the making of a wholesome, attractive, and admirable personality, which