

**LUTHER ON EDUCATION: INCLUDING  
A HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION, AND  
A TRANSLATION OF THE REFORMER'S  
TWO MOST IMPORTANT  
EDUCATIONAL TREATISES**

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Luther on education: including a historical introduction, and a translation of the reformer's two most important educational treatises by F. V. N. Painter

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BY

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## PREFACE.

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THIS little work illustrates the growth of an idea. It began with the translation of the "Letter to the Mayors and Aldermen of all the Cities of Germany in behalf of Christian Schools," of which a perusal a few years ago had led me to say in my "History of Education:" "If we consider its pioneer character, in connection with its statement of principles and admirable recommendations, the address must be regarded the most important educational treatise ever written." The translation of the "Sermon on the Duty of Sending Children to School," the most elaborate of Luther's educational writings, naturally followed as presenting more fully the great Reformer's views. The interest thus awakened led to an examination of all that he had written about education, and to an attempt to arrange in a somewhat systematic form his educational opinions and principles. The fact that no great character can be fully

understood without an acquaintance with the age in which he lived and the movements with which he was identified, led to the preparation of the first four chapters as a historical introduction.

The justification of the work must be found partly in the interest and value of Luther's views, and partly in the relation of those views to educational progress. Though it is not generally recognized, yet Luther brought about as important a reformation in education as in religion. With his earnest nature and profound penetration he laid hold of fundamental facts and principles that are often neglected in the rapid movements of the present. The progress of our century in education—a progress that constitutes no small part of its pre-eminence—has its roots in the principles and labors of the German reformer. This fact, it is believed, renders the present work a not untimely contribution to our excellent and rapidly increasing educational literature.

The two treatises of Luther contained in this work have never before appeared in English. The translation is made from the Leipsic edition of Luther's works. A judicious medium between a literal and a periphrastic rendering has been aimed at, but it is not easy to make the great, rugged, impetuous German speak our language acceptably. Except the passages



from his Catechisms, of which there are several good translations, nearly all the extracts illustrating the Reformer's educational views have been taken directly from the German. Whenever an extract has been thought of especial importance, a reference has been given to its source; but in most cases this has not been deemed necessary.

F. V. N. PAINTER.

*Salem, Virginia, September 5, 1889.*

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