

**IDEALISM IN EDUCATION
OR FIRST PRINCIPLES IN
THE MAKING OF MEN
AND WOMEN**

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Idealism in education or First principles in the making of men and women by Herman Harrell Horne

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HERMAN HARRELL HORNE

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IDEALISM IN EDUCATION



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OR

FIRST PRINCIPLES IN THE MAKING OF MEN AND WOMEN

BY

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TO
B. W. H.

PREFACE

IDEALISM finds ideas and purposes to be the realities of existence; and personality, which is the union of ideas and purposes, to be the ultimate reality. These views are in contrast with all forms of materialism which would reduce ideas and purposes to some form of physical existence.

Educating is the purposeful providing of an environment; at bottom it is personality in and behind the environment that counts most; so educating is really a relation between personalities of different degrees of maturity.

If these views are correct, it is evident that idealism is the true philosophy in educating. The relation between teachers and pupils, being personal and reciprocal, is something more than materialism can either allow or explain, than the commercialism of trade can understand, than any form of egoism can attain. It is instructive for us in an age of material progress and salary questions to remember that Thoreau wrote down in "Walden": "I have thoroughly tried school-keeping, and found that my expenses were in proportion, or rather out of proportion, to my income, for I was obliged to dress and train, not to say think and believe, accordingly, and I lost my time into the bargain. As I did not teach for the good of my

fellow-men, but simply for a livelihood, this was a failure."

In the pages of this book, idealism in educating is pictured as combining both science and philosophy in the practical aim of man-making. In the first chapters, on a scientific basis, we have ethical idealism, in which men and women as unfolding personalities are viewed as the worthiest objects of human endeavor. In the last chapter we have philosophical idealism, in which human personalities are viewed as the indistinct but developing images of the Divine Personality.

Two persons who have lately left us rich educational legacies in their writings have stated, the one, on a scientific basis, our practical aim, the other, on a philosophical basis, our idealistic interpretation.

At the conclusion of his "System of Synthetic Philosophy," Herbert Spencer, the agnostic altruist, wrote: "Hereafter, the highest ambition of the beneficent will be to have a share—even though an utterly inappreciable and unknown share—in the 'Making of Man.' Experience occasionally shows that there may arise extreme interest in pursuing entirely unselfish ends; and as time goes on, there will be more and more of those whose unselfish end will be the further evolution of Humanity. While contemplating from the heights of thought that far-off life of the race never to be enjoyed by them, but only by a remote posterity, they will feel a calm pleasure in the consciousness of having aided the advance towards it."

America has recently lost an idealist in education.