

**LECTURES ON POPULAR
EDUCATION: DELIVERED TO THE
EDINBURGH PHILOSOPHICAL
ASSOCIATION, IN APRIL AND
NOVEMBER 1833**

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Lectures on Popular Education: Delivered to the Edinburgh Philosophical Association, in April and November 1833 by George Combe

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GEORGE COMBE

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LECTURES
ON
POPULAR EDUCATION.



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ON

POPULAR EDUCATION;

DELIVERED TO THE

EDINBURGH PHILOSOPHICAL ASSOCIATION,

IN APRIL AND NOVEMBER, 1838;

AND PUBLISHED

BY REQUEST OF THE DIRECTORS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

BY GEORGE COMBE.

"The efforts of the people are still wanting for the purpose of promoting Education; and Parliament will render no substantial assistance, until the people themselves take the matter in hand with energy and spirit, and the determination to do something."—*Lord Brougham's Speech at York, 10th October, 1838.*

SECOND AMERICAN EDITION, CORRECTED AND ENLARGED.

BOSTON:
MARSH, CAPEN, LYON, AND WEBB.
1839.

NEW YORK, April 27, 1839.

To the Honorable HORACE MANN,
Boston.

DEAR SIR,

In no country which I have visited, have I met with an individual more deeply penetrated by a sense of the high importance of Education than you ; in none, have I seen one, whose moral sentiments were more warmly engaged in the cause ; and I have conversed with few, who, according to my humble judgement, could compete with you, in the soundness, depth, and extent, of their knowledge of the means by which Education may be most successfully promoted. I rejoice, therefore, in seeing the interests of this great cause, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, committed to your care. In dedicating, by permission, this little volume to you, I desire to express the esteem and affection with which your excellent qualities have inspired me ; and in adding my earnest wishes for your long life and prosperity, I echo only the universal sentiment of all to whom your attainments, and the purposes to which they are devoted, are known.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Your faithful and attached friend,

GEO. COMBE.

P R E F A C E

TO THE SECOND EDINBURGH EDITION.

THE following Lectures were first delivered in April, 1833, at the end of a course of Lectures on Phrenology ; and again, in the month of November, of the same year. At the request of the Directors of the Philosophical Association, they were then published in the form of a pamphlet. Immediately after their appearance, they were, with my permission, reprinted by Messrs. W. and R. Chambers, in their widely circulated journal. At a later period, a part of them was incorporated into the text of the 'Constitution of Man.' In these circumstances, it seemed unnecessary to reproduce the original lectures in a separate form ; and they were allowed to remain, for some time, out of print. Having been informed, however, that the public continued to demand the work, the present edition has been prepared, and I have endeavored to make some corrections, additions, and improvements, which I hope may increase its value. In its present form, it contains a condensed and comprehensive summary of the chief objects which should be aimed at in popular education.

Since these Lectures first appeared, a great improvement has taken place in popular education, and the principles and practices which they recommended, although

at first assailed with ridicule, have already, to a considerable extent, been carried into effect, with the happiest results. I allude, particularly, to the diffusion of useful knowledge, by lectures on science, to popular audiences. There is an increasing demand, throughout the country, for such instruction ; and lecturers are much wanted. So far back as 1796, Dr. Beddoes published 'A Lecture, introductory to a course of popular instruction on the constitution and management of the human body ;' and in 1797, lectures on Animal and Human Physiology were delivered to a miscellaneous audience, of both sexes, at Bristol. When I ventured to revive this practice, in my own courses of instruction, and recommended it, in these published Lectures, it was objected to, as improper and dangerous. The subject, however, has proved so attractive and useful, that already it has ceased to be a novelty ; and numerous successful courses of lectures have been delivered on it in various parts of the country.

Edinburgh, 16th January, 1837.