

**THE FOUR GREAT AMERICANS
SERIES. GREAT AMERICAN
EDUCATORS, WITH CHAPTERS
ON AMERICAN EDUCATION**

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The Four Great Americans Series. Great American Educators, with Chapters on American Education by A. E. Winship & James Baldwin

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A. E. WINSHIP & JAMES BALDWIN

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PREFACE

CHILDREN do not often play that they are poets or inventors, soldiers or sailors, but they love to play school and church. One of the first aspirations of ordinary children is to teach or to preach. The teacher and the preacher are their early ideals of greatness. This results from what they see and know, and not from anything that they hear about these leaders. They are told of the acts of heroic soldiers and sailors, of great orators and inventors, of famous poets and artists. But teachers and preachers are rarely the subjects of stories; and they seldom in any way give an impression that there have been great leaders in either of these professions.

Most teachers take pleasure in relating to their pupils inspiring stories of famous men and women who have made the world better by having lived in it. They err greatly if they neglect to tell about the lives and achievements

of educational leaders. If they know so little about educators that they cannot make the story of their deeds interesting, then others have erred in not making that story more familiar.

This book has been written to help teachers interest children in great educators.

The men and women who have done so much for the improvement of the schools of this country, and have made it possible for every boy and girl to secure a thorough education, are worthy to be remembered among the "Great Americans," and the record of their lives should be as inspiring to our young people as the stories of patriots and heroes of war. Their example should help to the teaching of higher and better aims in human life, and to the encouragement of manly endeavor and heroic effort.

It is earnestly hoped, also, that the brief biographies here presented will prove to be a source of inspiration and encouragement to many young teachers. These examples of perseverance, of devotion to duty, and of ultimate success, illustrate the possibilities that are within

the reach of faithful, earnest workers in the educational field, even when opposed by seemingly insurmountable difficulties.

The brief sketch of the history of public-school education in America will be of especial interest to teachers and those preparing to teach. The story of the manner in which our present systems of instruction have been slowly developed and adopted is not without its lessons even to young readers.