

**FIRST PRINCIPLES OF
POPULAR
EDUCATION AND PUBLIC
INSTRUCTION; PP. 1-251**

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First Principles of Popular Education and Public Instruction; pp. 1-251 by S. S. Randall

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S. S. RANDALL

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EDUCATION AND PUBLIC
INSTRUCTION; PP. 1-251**

FIRST PRINCIPLES
OF
POPULAR EDUCATION
AND
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

By S. S. RANDALL,
SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THE CITY
OF NEW YORK.

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TO THE

HON. HENRY BARNARD, LL.D.,

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION OF THE UNITED STATES,

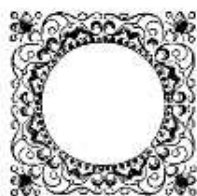
This Little Volume is respectfully inscribed, as a humble contribution
to that great cause in which we have both been so long
co-laborers, and to which the best energies
of our lives have been devoted.



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INTRODUCTORY.

If there be one subject which, more than any other, may be regarded as of paramount importance to the permanent well-being of a country like ours, it is that of the education of its successive generations of citizens. It has been well said that "Intelligence is the life of Liberty." In a government where the masses of the people possess or control all the functions and powers which are elsewhere conferred upon hereditary sovereigns, it is essential, not only to its own stability and welfare, but to the highest and most cherished interests of every individual comprising the community, that these high powers should be delegated to and exercised only by the enlightened, the wise and the good.

The following pages are offered to the public as the conclusions upon the several subjects discussed, resulting from an experience of nearly thirty years in the practical administration of the systems of Public Instruction in the City and State of New York. During the first half of the period, as fellow-laborer with HORACE MANN and HENRY BARNARD, and sitting at the feet of such men as JOHN A. DIX, JOHN C. SPENCER, SAMUEL YOUNG and CHRISTOPHER MORGAN in the State Department, the author could scarcely fail of imbibing the great central truths pertaining to Popular Education and the fundamental principles upon which it should rest. Fourteen years of unremitting labor