

THEORY AND PRACTICE OF TEACHING

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Theory and Practice of Teaching by Edward Thring

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EDWARD THRING

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BY THE

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TO
MY WIFE,
AND PARTNER IN SCHOOL-LIFE;
TO WHOSE
COURAGE AND HELP
I OWE SO MUCH
OF
LIFE, AND OF WORK DONE,
THIS SECOND EDITION
IS,
AS IT OUGHT TO BE,
DEDICATED.



PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

IT is ill protesting too much. Many good resolutions of silence made and confirmed during thirty years of school-work, as every hope of a public character which brightened the early days was destroyed, have been broken by the appearance of this book. Success only strengthened the conviction that it was useless to speak ; and yet when the conviction seemed strongest some folly has swept it away. Or is it instinct, like the prescient idiocy of the butterfly, that lays its eggs on cabbage leaf, or nettle, forced by a blind impulse to thwart its own experience, and deposit part of its life where no sign warrants an idea that it will be allowed to live? Perhaps a strong belief that anything, which has a touch of true life in it, will live somewhere or other is at the bottom of it all, however overlaid by chiller wisdom. So this bit of life goes forth. And if it does any work or worker good, cheers, or helps a single toiling fellow-creature, the writer will have had his reward. It may be that another hand and heart may take this up, enrich it with wealth of his own, fill it full of prevailing power, and send it on, a higher creation, in a fortunate hour, to a happier end.

THE SCHOOL HOUSE, UPPINGHAM,

May, 1883.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

HE, who from whatever motive appears for a lost cause, may be well pleased at obtaining a hearing ; and need not wonder if the toleration granted him be somewhat due to an unconsciousness of the meaning of his statements. If a nation has in practice decided against teaching, it is likely that they will take the word in their own sense and refuse to admit a different interpretation of it. Hence the uselessness of speaking on the subject. But the hope that a worker's words might cheer and help fellow-workers has been fully verified. So the author, joining hands with English-speaking brethren in far distant lands, sends out this second edition cheered and strengthened himself by having cheered and strengthened others ; certain now that there are seeds of life in it, which touch other lives, even as they came out of his own life first.

THE SCHOOL HOUSE, UPPINGHAM,
May, 1885.