

COMENIUS

COMENIUS

AND

THE BEGINNINGS OF EDUCATIONAL REFORM

BY

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PREFACE

THE present volume is an effort to trace the reform movement in education from Vives, Bacon, and Ratke to Comenius, who gave the movement its most significant force and direction; and from him to the later reformers, — Francke, Rousseau, Basedow, Pestalozzi, Fröbel, and Herbart. A variety of ideas, interests, and adaptations, all distinctly modern, are represented in the life-creeds of these reformers; and, in the absence of a more satisfactory term, the progressive movement which they represent has been styled realism, — sometimes called the “new education.”

It has been well said that “the dead hand of spiritual ancestry lays no more sacred duty on posterity than that of realizing under happier circumstances ideas which the stress of age or the shortness of life has deprived of their accomplishment.” Many of the reforms represented by the realists occupy no inconsiderable place in the platforms of modern practitioners of education; and in the belief that a history of the movement might contribute toward the ultimate reforms which realism represents, it has seemed expedient to focus such a survey on the life and teachings of the strongest personality and chief exponent of the movement.

The condition of education in Europe during the sixteenth century is briefly told in the opening chap-

ter; following are given the traces of the educational development of Comenius in the writings of Vives, Bacon, and Ratke; three chapters are devoted to the life of Comenius and the reforms in which he actively participated; an exposition of his educational writings has three chapters; a chapter is given to the influence of Comenius on Francke, Rousseau, Pestalozzi, and other modern reformers; and the closing chapter sums up his permanent influence. The volume has two appendices,—one giving tables of dates relating to the life and writings of Comenius, and the other a select annotated bibliography.

In the exposition of the writings of Comenius, the author has made liberal use of English and German translations from Latin and Czech originals. In the case of the *Great didactic*, the scholarly translation by Mr. Keatinge has, in the main, been followed. Free translations of portions of this work had been made, by the author before the appearance of Mr. Keatinge's book; and in some instances these have been retained. As regards the account of Comenius' views on the earliest education of the child, the author's edition of the *School of infancy* has been followed; and in the discussion of reforms in language teaching, he is indebted to Mr. Bardeen's edition of the *Orbis pictus*, and to Dr. William T. Harris for the use of the handsome Elzevir edition of the *Janua*, which is the property of the Bureau of Education.

WILL S. MONROE.

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL,
WESTFIELD, MASS.

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APPENDICES

I. TABLE OF DATES

(a) *Pertaining to the Life of Comenius*

1592. Born at Nivnitz, Moravia, March 28th.
1604. Death of his father and mother.
— Entered the elementary school at Strasnitz.
1608. Entered the gymnasium at Prerau.
1611. Matriculated in the college at Herborn.
1613. Matriculated in the university at Heidelberg.
1614. Appointed teacher in the Moravian school at Prerau.
1616. Ordained as a minister, April 29th.
1618. Called to the pastorate of the church at Fulneck ; also superintendent of schools.
1624. Marriage to Elizabeth Cyrrill.
— Driven into the Bohemian mountains by religious persecutions.
1627. Banished from his native country.
1628. Fled to Poland ; given charge of the gymnasium at Lissa.
1632. Consecrated as a bishop, October 6th.
1641. Called to England, arriving there September 22d.
1642. Left London, June 10th, for Sweden.
— Settled at Elbing, Prussia, in October.
1648. Returned to Lissa ; death of his wife ; chosen president of the council (senior bishop), of the Moravian Church.
1649. Re-married, to Elizabeth Galusowa.
1650. Took charge of the schools at Saros-Patak, Hungary, in May.
1654. Returned to Lissa.
1656. Lissa burned ; flight to Silesia.
— Settled in Amsterdam.
1670. Died at Amsterdam, November 15th ; buried at Naården (Holland), November 22d.

(b) *Principal Writings of Comenius*

1616. *Grammaticæ facilioris præcepta* (Simple grammatical rules). Prague.
1617. *Listové do nebe* (Cries of the oppressed poor). Olmütz.
1622. *De Christina perfectione* (On Christian perfection). Prague.
1623. *Labyrint světa a ráj srdce, to jest* (Labyrinth of the world and paradise of the heart). Lissa.
1631. *Janua linguarum reserata* (Gate of languages unlocked). Lissa.
1633. *Informatorium der Mutter-Schul* (School of infancy). Lissa.
- , *Atrium linguæ Latinæ* (On the study of Latin style). Lissa.
1634. *Physicæ ad lumen divinum reformatæ synopsis* (Physics remodelled in accordance with divine light). Leipzig.
1638. *Prodromus pansophiæ* (Fragment of the *Great didactic*). Published in London, 1639, by Hartlib). Lissa.
1641. *Via lucis* (The way of light). Amsterdam.
1643. *Pansophiæ diatyposis, iconographica, et orthographica* (Published in England in 1650 with the title: A pattern of universal knowledge). Danzig.
1647. *Vestibulum Latinæ linguæ rerum* (Vestibule of the Latin language). Lissa.
1648. *Linguarum methodus novissima* (New method of language study). Lissa.
1650. *Lux in tenebris* (Light in darkness—on prophetic visions). Amsterdam.
- , *Scholæ pansophicæ delinætio* (Plan of a pansophic school). Saros-Patak.
1656. *Schola ludus* (School dramas). Saros-Patak.
1657. *Orbis sensualium pictus* (The world illustrated). Nuremberg.
- , *Opera didactica omnia* (Complete didactic works in four volumes). Amsterdam.
1660. *Historia fratrum Bohemorum* (History of the Bohemian brethren). Amsterdam.

- , *Cartesius cum sua naturali philosophia a mechanicis evereus* (Descartes and his natural philosophy overthrown by arguments derived from mechanical principles). Amsterdam.
- , *De natura caloris et frigoris* (On the nature of heat and cold). Amsterdam.
1668. *Unum necessarium* (The one thing needful). Amsterdam.

II. SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

(a) *Writings of Comenius*

1. *The great didactic*. Translated with introductions, biographical and historical, by M. W. Keatinge. London: Adam and Charles Black. 1896. pp. 468.

This first complete translation of Comenius' most philosophic work is admirably done. The biographical introduction is given ninety-eight pages, and the historical introduction fifty pages. These are both interesting and critical. The book unfortunately is not indexed.

2. *The school of infancy: an essay on the education of youth during the first six years*. Edited with an introduction and notes by Will S. Monros. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co. 1806. London: Isbister & Co. 1807. pp. xvi+99.

There are numerous foot-notes, intended to show the origin of Comenius' educational ideals and the influence of his writings on later educators. Collateral reading references are given at the end of each chapter, and in the appendix there is a reasonably complete bibliography of Comenius literature.

3. *The orbis pictus*. Translated into English by Charles Hoole. London: John and Benj. Sprint, 1728. Syracuse, N.Y.: C. W. Bardeen. 1887. pp. 100.

This is a very satisfactory reproduction of the famous Hoole translation by the photographic process. Some of the cuts are indistinct, but Mr. Bardeen wisely refrained from retouching them, preferring occasional indistinctness to modern tampering with the originals.

4. *John Amos Comenius: his life and educational work.* By S. S. Laurie. Boston: Willard Small. 1885. pp. 229.
The introduction (pp. 1-16) gives the effect of the Renaissance on education; a brief but appreciative sketch of the life of Comenius follows (pp. 17-64); and the remainder of the book is given to an exposition of his writings.
5. *Grosse Unterrichtslehre.* Aus dem Lateinischen übersetzt mit Einleitungen und Anmerkungen versehen von Julius Beeger und Franz Zoubek. Leipzig: Siegismund und Volkening. No date. pp. clxxvii+280.
The sketch of the life of Comenius (176 pp.) is by Zoubek, and the translation of the *Great didactic* from the Latin into German by Beeger.
6. *Ausgewählte Schriften.* Aus dem Lateinischen übersetzt und mit Einleitung und Anmerkungen versehen von Julius Beeger und J. Leutbecher. Leipzig: Siegismund und Volkening. No date. pp. xvi+359.
A collection of the miscellaneous educational writings of Comenius, including the *School of infancy*, *Panegerisia*, and fragments of the *Pansophy*.
7. *Grosse Unterrichtslehre.* Mit einer Einleitung: J. Comenius, sein Leben und Wirken. Einleitung, Übersetzung und Commentar von Gustav Adolph Lindner. Wien und Leipzig: A. Pichler's Witwe und Sohn. 1892. pp. lxxxix+311.
Perhaps the best German edition of the *Great didactic*. The biographical sketch is less valuable than the one in the edition by Beeger and Zoubek; but the annotations on the *Great didactic*, covering about forty pages, give it special pedagogic value.
8. *Ueber "Eins ist noth" ("Unum necessarium").* Von Joh. Amos Comenius. Znaim: Fournier und Haberler. 1892. pp. 22.
A convenient edition of Comenius' pathetic swan song, "The one thing heedful."

(b) *Biographical and Critical*

1. *Educational Review*. Nicholas Murray Butler, editor. New York: Educational Review Publishing Co. March, 1892. Vol. III. pp. 209-236.

The issue for March, 1892, is a Comenius number. It contains a brief on Comenius by Professor Butler (pp. 209-211); "The place of Comenius in the history of education," by Professor Laurie (pp. 211-223); "The text-books of Comenius," by Mr. C. W. Bardeen (pp. 223-336); and "The permanent influence of Comenius," by Professor Hanus (pp. 226-236).

2. *Proceedings of the National Educational Association for 1892*. pp. 703-728.

The department of superintendence of the National Educational Association, in connection with the meeting at Brooklyn, February 16-18, 1892, held exercises in commemoration of the three-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Comenius, with the following addresses: "Private life and personal characteristics," Dr. John Max Hark (pp. 703-711); "Text-books of Comenius," Superintendent William H. Maxwell (pp. 712-723); "Place of Comenius in the history of education," Professor Nicholas Murray Butler (pp. 723-728).

3. *Essays on educational reformers*. By Robert Hebert Quick. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1893. pp. 119-171.

One of the best brief critical surveys of the writings of Comenius and written in the fascinating style of the genial Quick.

4. *History of pedagogy*. By Gabriel Compayré. Translated by W. H. Payne. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co. 1886. pp. 122-136.

A brief summary of Comenius' most important contributions to primary instruction.

5. *The educational ideal: an outline of its growth in modern times*. By James Phinney Munroe. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co. 1895. pp. 68-94.

A concise and critical survey of the reforms of Comenius

and the other realists. After Quick, the best brief survey of the modern movement; and at many points it supplements Quick.

6. *Barnard's American Journal of Education*. Published at Hartford by the editor, Henry Barnard. June, 1858. Vol. V. pp. 257-298.

Dr. Barnard was one of the earliest to call attention to the pedagogic value of Comenius' writings. This translation from Karl von Raumer's *Geschichte der Pädagogik* was, up to the time Professor Laurie's book appeared, the only comprehensive study of Comenius in English. Raumer, however, is not an impartial critic of the realists.

The history of the unitas fratrum. By Edmund de Schweinitz. Bethlehem, Penn.: Moravian Publication Office, 1885. pp. 693.

An authoritative account of the Moravian Brethren and of Comenius' relation to the same.

8. *Monatshefte der Comenius-Gesellschaft*. Ludwig Kellar, editor. Berlin: Hermann Heyfelder. 1892-1900. 10 volumes.

A high grade bi-monthly review published by the Comenius Society in the interest of education generally, and in particular of the views held by the Moravian reformer. The review is a mine of rich material on Comenius and his contemporaries.

9. *Leben und Schicksale des Johann Amos Comenius*. Von Anton Urbka. Znaim: Fournier und Haberler. 1892. pp. 160.

The best *brief*, German life of Comenius. It is accurate and sympathetic, and contains 17 wood-cuts.

10. *Über des Johann Amos Comenius Leben und Wirksamkeit*. Von Anton Gindely. Znaim: Fournier und Haberler. 1893. pp. 109.

Another brief German work. Professor Gindely is a Roman Catholic, and while he writes of Comenius with less enthusiasm, he presents his life with critical fairness.

11. *Johann Amos Comenius: sein Leben und seine Schriften*. Von Johann Kvacsala. Berlin: Julius Klinkhardt. 1892. pp. 480 + 89.

This, so far as I know, is the most comprehensive life of Comenius to be found in any language; but at many points it is unnecessarily tedious and diffuse.

12. *Rein's Encyclopädisches Handbuch der Pädagogik*. Langensalza: Hermann Beyer und Söhne. Vol. I. pp. 558-569.

An excellent brief article by A. Nebe. An article on the Comenius-Stiftung follows (pp. 569-573).

13. *Der Anschauungsunterricht in der deutschen Schule von Amos Comenius bis zur Gegenwart*. Von Gottlieb Gustav Deussing. Frankenberg: C. C. Rossberg. 1884. pp. 66.

A historical and critical dissertation on the growth of object teaching and nature study.

14. *Die pädagogischen Grundgedanken des Amos Comenius*. Von Hermann Gottsched. Magdeburg: A. und R. Faber. 1879. pp. 64.

A dissertation on Comenius' philosophy of education.

15. *Comenius: ein Systematiker in der Pädagogik*. Von Walter Müller. Dresden: Bleyl und Kaemmer. 1887. pp. 50.

A dissertation on the contributions of Comenius to systematic pedagogy and school systems.

16. *Die Pädagogik des Spaniers Johann Ludwig Vives und sein Einfluss auf Joh. Amos Comenius*. Erlangen: Junge und Sohn. 1890. pp. 69.

Indicates traces of the educational theories of Comenius in the writings of Vives.

17. *Die Didaktik Basedows im Vergleiche zur Didaktik des Comenius*. Von Petru Garboviclanu. Bucharest: Carol Göbl. 1887. pp. 82.

The influence of the *Great didactic* of Comenius on Basedow and his institution is pointed out.

18. *Schmidt's Encyclopädie des gesammten Erziehungs und Unterrichtswesens*. Gotha: Besser. 1876. Vol. I. pp. 941-951.

The article is by G. Baur. It is less comprehensive, although more sympathetic, than the article in Raumer's *Geschichte der Pädagogik*.

19. *Buisson's Dictionnaire de pédagogie et d'instruction primaire*. Paris: Hachette et Cie. 1887. Vol I. Part I. pp. 421-427.

Three brief but discriminating articles. The first, on the life of Comenius, by C. Progier (pp. 421-423); the second, on the pedagogical writings of Comenius, by Ferdinand Buisson (pp. 423-426); the third, on the permanent influences of Comenius, by A. Daguet (pp. 426-427).

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