

**A SCHOOLMASTER'S
DIFFICULTIES, ABROAD
AND AT HOME**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649063680

A Schoolmaster's Difficulties, Abroad and at Home by Anonymous

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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... "non omnia possumus omnes."

Vico. Ecl. viii.

LONDON:
LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN, AND LONGMANS.
1853.

260. g. 217.

LONDON:
SPOTTISWOODS and SHAW,
New-street-Square.

TO

THE MASTERS AND MISTRESSES

OF THE

Parochial, National, British, and Infant Schools,

IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND,

IN TOKEN

OF LOVE TO THEIR OFFICE, OF SYMPATHY IN THEIR TRIALS,

OF GOOD WISHES FOR THEIR PROSPERITY,

THIS VOLUME

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED.

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PREFACE.

THERE are, doubtless, many teachers among those to whom these humble pages are addressed, who feel none of the difficulties therein mentioned; and some of whom may even be at a loss to comprehend what is intended by their recital. To them, of course, the whole volume, under any view, will possess little value; and all that is asked of them is, a candid allowance that others may differ from themselves. As good men and true, they have, probably, often seen, and sorrowed over, the trials and failures of their brethren; and may have sometimes tried to amend, direct, or soothe, where they had a reasonable hope that their influence and experience might be brought to bear. But if they be merely such as close their own eyes and then fancy that all are blind; or again, such as are merry monarchs of their little kingdom, because they know neither the privileges nor the responsibilities of their office,—they should be reminded, not to condemn others for being more sensitive, and less

confident, than themselves; and not to find fault with any one who truly desires and aims at the welfare of a large band whom he may seek to encourage, if not to provoke, to love and good works.

On the other hand, it is trusted that those for whom these pages were written, will in some way profit by a few of the thoughts and suggestions contained therein. Directed by an abler and more experienced hand, they would have winged their way more swiftly and more home to the mark, than is likely to be now the case. Yet, if any benefit accrues to the wilful, or the depressed; or if a better champion is drawn forth to their succour,—the present Essay will not have failed in its end.

It has been long decided by grammarians that the masculine gender is more worthy than the feminine. If, in the present volume, advantage has been taken of this ungallant dogma, it is not from any disrespect to the female teachers of our schools, or by way of excepting them from its discussions, but merely to avoid the constant repetition of the same words.

