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**THE LIFE OF FROEBEL AND THE BIRTH OF  
THE "NEW EDUCATION."**

BY MISS MARTHA MICHAELS, MONTREAL.

A proper word for a new object is a great advantage in explaining it, and a whole volume of definition is contained in the appellation "*Kindergarten*." It is a German word, familiar to the eye, if not also to the ear of almost every educationist, not only in Europe but in the world, except China. America is full of it.

The kindergarten is an institution which treats the child according to its nature, comparing it to a flower in a garden.

A Children's Garden—as in a garden, by the care of a skilled, intelligent gardener, growing plants are cultivated in accordance with nature's laws, so here, in our child garden, shall the noblest of all growing things, men (that is children, the germs and shoots of humanity) be cultivated in accordance with the laws of their own being and of nature. Recognizing that children differ, even as plants, in their needs and characteristics, a Kindergarten teacher feels that her aim and duty is to study individually each child under her care, and endeavour to supply appropriate means and assistance to each child, to develop the best that is in them.

Before going further, I feel that it is due to the great founder of this system to speak of him and try to tell you