

THE HIGH GROUND.

MAN is a spiritual being ; any plan for dealing with him must take this into account. Education must consider man in his spiritual aspects, or else it will assuredly fail. It excites the curiosity and surprise of the reader to read old history. If the beginning is made with the Bible we immediately come to a recognition of the spiritual side of the human race ; and the reaction of man upon the spiritual influences operating on him (in the case of Abraham) laid the foundation for a religion that gave direction and power to man's progress.

So in all history. There have been some in all nations that felt there was a ruling spirit ; this perception is what has saved the nations from entire bankruptcy, even though gods of wood and stone were set up. Man's salvation lies in recognizing the spiritual in the material. One who visits the vast museums at Kensington will be deeply affected by the large collections of birds naturally placed near their nests that with great care have been sought for, found, and removed here. Tears often are seen to flow as pair after pair is passed, for it is so plain that there is an over-ruling spirit of love.

Fra Angelico (often known as Fiesole because his best days were spent there) achieved a reputation that has not grown dim as the years have gone by, because he felt the spiritual element ; there is something surpassingly fine in his "Coronation of the Virgin," in the Louvre. He attempted to state some of his ideas concerning art ; one of the laws he considered as conclusive as those Newton discovered concerning gravitation is, "The fair tree Igdrasil of human art can only flourish when its dew is Affection ; its air Devotion ; the rock

of its roots, Patience ; and its sunshine, God."

These are needed to cause colors rightly to be placed on the canvas. But what are the needs rightly to influence the lives of young men and maidens, and cause those lives to become something as high and as beautiful as the conception of the Creator? *Teaching* must be conceived of as a means of carrying forward and really attaining the design of the Creator. Looked at from this point of view the teacher's work is indeed a sublime one. The teacher, at his home fresh from some volume of poetry, may have reached this conclusion ; but when he enters the dusty school-room, where his pupils straggle in, many of them tardy and untidy, where lessons are not learned, where an evil mind is far more apparent than a desire for knowledge, he concludes his theory is too fine for the work in hand. If such a feeling arises, let the teacher ask himself how it is that Angelico's pictures, made out of oil and various earths, still hang upon the walls and are still the admiration of students of art, after more than five centuries have rolled by? What is it that has rendered his work so immortal?

Teaching is an Art. There may be high teaching and low teaching. The teacher who recognizes great underlying principles is teaching for all time. He will use the same materials for his word in common with other teachers ; his pupils will read, write, and use figures ; but he will accomplish something the others do not. The person who has a knowledge of certain things is equipped to a certain extent, and only to a certain extent. A young man who was em-