

he therefore responded to the call and went through the campaigning of 1830. His military ardour did not, however, take his mind off education. His soldiering showed him the value of discipline and united action, how the individual belongs not to himself, but to the whole body, and how the whole body supports the individual. .

He now formed a valuable friendship with two young men whose names will always be associated with his. These young men, Langethal and Middendorf, became attached to Froebel in the field and were ever afterwards his devoted followers, sacrificing all their prospects in life for the sake of carrying out his ideas. After the peace of Fontainebleau in May, 1814, Froebel returned to Berlin and became curator of the Museum of Mineralogy, under Professor Weiss.

He intended to become a teacher of natural science, but, before long, wider views dawned upon him. Langethal and Middendorf were in Berlin engaged in tuition. Froebel gave them regular instruction in his theory, and counting on their support, he resolved to set about realizing his own idea of the "New Education." This was in 1816. Froebel gave up his position and set out for Griesheim on foot, spending his last cent on the way for bread. There lived the widow of his brother and her children. He undertook the education of his orphan niece and nephew and also of two more nephews sent him by another brother. With these he opened a school and wrote to Langethal and Middendorf to come and help him in the experiment. Middendorf came at once, Langethal a year or two later, when the school had been moved to Keilhan, which became the Mecca of the new faith.

In Keilhan, Froebel, Langethal, Middendorf and another, a relative of Middendorf's, all married, and formed an educational community. They were persecuted as heretics, but the new education was sufficiently successful to attract notice from all quarters ; and when he had been ten years at Keilhan, he published his great work, "The Education of Man."

Four years later, he determined to start other institutions in connection with the parent institutions at Keilhan ; and being offered, by a friend, the use of a castle on the Wartensee in Lucerne, he left Keilhan under the direction of Bar, and with Langethal, made a settlement in Switzerland.