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THE HOMILETICS OF TEACHING.

BY JAMES BUCKHAM.

“What a curious subject!” I fancy I hear this exclamation discharged at irregular intervals, like the random firing of a skirmish line, as *The School Journal* falls open in the hands of its widely-scattered army of readers, from Canada to California. ‘The Homiletics of Teaching’—what good can come out of such a Nazareth of titles as that?”

Suppose we put it in simpler, more colloquial phrasing,—“The Preaching of Teaching.” How does that sound? Not euphoniously, to be sure; but I venture to hope some of my readers see a glimmer of reason in it. The preaching function of the teacher,—that is the idea underlying all this caption-seeking prelude; the thought that the teacher’s mission and the teacher’s privilege are not altogether confined to the work of instruction, but reach over into moral and spiritual activities; so that, when the teacher stands up before a roomful of bright young faces, he or she may be moved to say—“Ah, there are souls behind those eager eyes, and motives behind those restless hands, and before God it is my duty, and shall be my joy, to instil into the one pure and helpful aspirations, and to put before the other high and worthy ideals. I will not content myself with forming these minds only; I will go deeper, to the springs of heart and soul.”