

Quite correct, my dear. But surely you know by this time what sort of a book I am going to write, and you might have answered at once whether you really think that to enter into a full explanation as to *who I am* before setting forth in explicit details *what I was*, is to follow the natural method. Let us turn, if you please, to the professional text book to decide the point.

"When the teacher is called upon to present to the pupil," says our favourite author on *paideutics*, "any subject, in connection with which the details are numerous, there must be chosen some centre of attractiveness from which these details may be made to radiate, as it were, around a common nucleus. The ingenuity of the teacher is here exercised to its fullest extent in making a selection of the nucleus of the information that will excite the interest of the pupil the most, and every care ought to be taken that a thorough knowledge of the nucleus is acquired, before any attempt be made to extend the pupil's investigations along the lines of information, which are eventually, through the skill of the teacher, to radiate from this nucleus as the knowledge centre of the whole subject."

There can be no mistake made over such language as the above, and the man who uttered these words is an educationist of the highest standing, something which I never claimed to be, even in my most egotistical moments. I am merely a schoolmaster, and yet I can bear witness from my experience that the above statement is as sound as the Moral Law itself, and is worthy of the most careful consideration by every teacher in the land. But in case the abstract character of the language may take the edge off the advice to some of my younger readers, let us turn to another of our favourite authors who speaks in this wise :

"In introducing young folks to the study of some historical narrative, say a biography for example,—for nearly all history is made up of biography—the most prominent person mentioned in the narrative should be brought prominently before the class by means of a portrait or by word-picturing. And, as the last picture taken of a man is generally the one posterity prefers, so the final achievements and the position to which he has been able to rise should be taken notice of by the teacher before the details of his earlier years are presented. The man, or the hero, at the end of his career, or just as he has attained his highest success, is much