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CHARLES WEBSTER

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PREFACE

The puritan revolution is recognised as a crucial period in the development of English educational thought. It marked the watershed at which the ideals of humanistic education gave way to the empiricism pioneered by Bacon and Comenius. At this period of political and intellectual ferment, education became caught up in the movement for the reform of philosophy and society. Of the proliferation of educational works which this movement engendered, few are now readily accessible. Almost always, the educational thought of this period is approached through the single, brilliant, but rather unrepresentative *Of Education* by Milton.

The present volume presents a different perspective by providing a selection of the writings of that unique educational partnership, Samuel Hartlib and John Dury. Dury gave literary expression to the educational ideas of the Hartlib circle, while Hartlib himself was the publicist and co-ordinator. Due to their enterprise, the interregnum governments were presented with a comprehensive educational policy. The heroic labours of Hartlib and his friends for educational and social reform met with a distressingly slight official response, providing the first rehearsal of a scene which became all too familiar in the subsequent history of English education.

In the following texts, the original spelling, capitalisation, italicisation, etc. have been preserved, the original page numbers being indicated by square brackets in the text. In transcriptions from manuscripts in the introduction and texts, such normal abbreviations as y^e , y^t , w^{ch} , have been expanded and in a very few cases punctuation has been inserted. Any other insertions are shown by square brackets. Complete texts are given wherever

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PREFACE

possible, but in some cases, the expansive seventeenth-century style has necessitated selection.

I am indebted for the assistance of many university librarians, particularly at Leeds and Sheffield. I have also had the advantage of discussions with colleagues interested in seventeenth-century history, particularly my Leeds colleagues, C. B. Schmitt, J. E. McGuire and P. M. Rattansi, as well as Professor W. H. G. Armytage, who has been a constant encouragement. Above all, I am indebted to the late Professor G. H. Turnbull, whose pioneer studies of the Hartlib Papers have been of inestimable value to myself and other students of the puritan revolution. All those who make use of these papers, deposited at Sheffield University Library, will be aware of the merits of Turnbull's meticulous scholarship. The Hartlib Papers are quoted with the kind permission of Lord Delamere, their owner.

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NOTE ON ABBREVIATIONS AND REFERENCES

A list of the main abbreviations used in the introduction.

- CPW* *Complete Prose Works of John Milton*, ed. Don M. Wolfe (New Haven, 1953-).
- CSPD* *Calendar of State Papers, Domestic Series.*
- HDC* G. H. Turnbull, *Hartlib, Dury and Comenius. Gleanings from Hartlib's papers* (London, 1947).
- MGP I & II* J. Kvačala, *Die pädagogische Reform des Comenius in Deutschland bis zum Ausgange des 17. Jahrhunderts*, 2 vols.; *Monumenta Germaniae paedagogica*, vols. 26, 32 (Berlin, 1903-4).
- SH* G. H. Turnbull, *Samuel Hartlib, A Sketch of his Life and his relations to J. A. Comenius* (Oxford, 1920).
- VS* *Veškeré spisy J. A. Komenského* (Brno, 1911-26).

Where texts are cited which are included in this book, the original page reference is given first, followed by the location in this volume in bold type.

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I design all such and the like works or tracts to be printed upon the charges of *Macaria*, whose scope it is most professedly to propagate religion, and endeavour the reformation of the whole world. But it is scarce one day (or hour on the day) or night, being brim full with all manner of objects of that most public and universal nature, but my soul is crying out:

Phosphore! redde diem, quid gaudia nostra moraris?
Phosphore, redde diem!

Letter from Hartlib to Robert Boyle, 15 November 1659 (Boyle, *Works*, vi, 132). Hartlib is quoting from the epigrams of Martial (viii, 21).