

The Headmaster



The Reverend Richard Nevius

The prophet Isaiah wrote -- I, the Lord, have called you with righteous purpose and taken you by the hand; I have formed you, and appointed you to be a light to the peoples, a beacon for the nations, to open eyes that are blind, to bring captives out of prison, out of the dungeons where they lie in darkness.

'to open eyes that are blind' might be one definition of education -- certainly the idea of bringing captives out of prison, the prison of ignorance, is one that every school should have as its aim. We sometimes spend a great deal of our time worrying about the teaching of fundamentals -- and we forget that these great keys are opening the locks on the mind, and thus freeing the child from the prison of ignorance. The gate of a school is the gateway to the kingdom of knowledge. In a properly conducted school, the child's horizons are widened, his experience deepened, his outlook expanded. Even the smallest child learns so much so quickly -- think what an enormous effort is involved in that first year and a half of life when the child learns to understand human speech and to communicate with his family. Is there any intellectual task harder than that? Is there any joy greater than that of a teacher who sees a class suddenly relate letters and sounds to words and begin to read? At Heathwood Hall we firmly believe that teaching children is not only a responsibility, but a great privilege. There is a joy and a deep satisfaction in helping children learn that almost no other vocation can offer. Our dedication is not to educational methods but to children.