

Supporting documents:

The online version of Robinson's translation of Patrizi can be found here:

http://eebo.chadwyck.com.ezp-prod1.hul.harvard.edu/search/fulltext?SOURCE=var_spell.cfg&ACTION=ByID&ID=D00000998494380000&WARN=N&SIZE=449&FILE=../session/1576595033_27410&SEARCHSCREEN=CITATIONS&DISPLAY=AUTHOR&ECCO=N

SAMPLE

(The first call in Western history for universal public education of citizens of a republic)

Original (scanned text from EEBO, with thumbnails of the original)

Those letters, therefore doe I deeme not onelye to bee thoroughly learned: but also scarcely can I thinke any ma~ in a free cytty can or may deserue the name of a witty Ci|tizen withoute the knowledge of learninge: for how with+out learning can we attaine not only vn|to the high know|ledge of liberall sciences, but also thereby learne manye small artes or faculties neither can merchandize it selfe or husba~dry, be in sufficient sauety without them: for these do keepe the memory of things past, they instruct postery|tye: they annexe and compare things done and past, vn|to

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things yet to come, and do keepe a perpetuall recko|ninge of all our whole lyfe.

The best way here in to bee done therefore, is to trayne yong childre~ herunto before they apply any other maters: if in tyme to come wee desire to haue them proue men, or to be reputed and taken in the number of Cytyzens: for surelye the Greeke prouerbe is:

A man voyde of skill and wantinge learned lore,
To a tree vnprofitable, comparde is euermore.

Gouernours therfore of common weales oughte to be carefull & diligently to foresee y^t for euery liberall Art or good learning, ther may be assigned y^e best scholemaisters to be mayntayned wyth a publique stipend, whyche maye teache openlye: for euery priuate person cannot maintein lyuing for their Chyldren, and recompence their Schole|maisters wyth conuenient stypende and ordynary salary. And especiallye let the Scholemaisters teaching Gram|mer be excellent and notable, yea not onely in learninge but in manners also moste approued: for it is most daun|gerous as it is spoken in the Prouerbe: *To betake a sheepe into the custodye of a wolfe*. And to fynde hym whom thou putttest in trust as scholemaister to thy chldren, a corrup|ter and marrer of them, For the vices wherewithe Chyl|dren at that age are polluted, do eyther remayne perpetu+ally, or elles wyth greate diffycultie are they withdrawn from them.

Edited version:

Those letters, therefore, do I deem not only to be thoroughly learned, but also scarcely can I think any man in a free city can or may deserve the name of a witty¹ citizen without the knowledge of learning. For how without learning can we attain not only unto the high knowledge of liberal sciences, but also thereby learn many small arts or faculties?² Neither can merchandise³ itself or husbandry be in sufficient safety without them, for these do keep the memory of things past, they instruct posterity, they annex and compare things done and past unto things yet to come, and do keep a perpetual reckoning of all our whole life. The best way herein to be done therefore is to train young children hereunto before they apply [themselves to] any other matters, if in time to come we desire to have them prove men, or to be reputed and taken in the number of citizens. For surely the Greek proverb is:

A man void of skill and wanting learned lore

To a tree unprofitable compared is evermore.⁴

Governors, therefore, of commonwealths ought to be careful and diligently to foresee that for every liberal art or good learning there may be assigned the best schoolmasters to be maintained

¹ intelligent, sensible

² *minimas quasque artes* in Latin (“certain of the smallest arts,” probably meaning practical arts such as animal husbandry or accounting that could be taught by handbooks (*artes*)).

³ i.e. mercantile activity

⁴ SOURCE? Homer?

with a public stipend, which may teach openly.⁵ For every private person cannot maintain living for their children and recompense their schoolmasters with convenient stipend and ordinary salary. And especially let the schoolmasters teaching grammar be excellent and notable, yea, not only in learning but in manners also most approved. For it is most dangerous as it is spoken in the proverb, *To betake a sheep into the custody of a wolf*, and to find him whom thou putttest in trust as schoolmaster to thy children a corrupter and marrer of them. For the vices wherewith children at that age are polluted do either remain perpetually, or else with great difficulty are they withdrawn from them.

⁵ i.e., in public.