General Maxims of Teaching by A. Bronson Alcott
By which to regulate the instructor's practice in instruction
From the original journal of 1826

I. To teach, with a sense of accountableness to the profession
II. To teach, with reference to eternity
III. To teach, as an agent of the Great Instructor
IV. To teach, depending on the Divine Blessings for success
V. To teach, as the former of Character and the promoter of the collective happiness of Man
VI. To teach, to subserve the great cause of philanthropy and benevolence
VII. To teach, distinct from all sinister, sectarian and oppressive principles
VIII. To teach, with charitable feelings toward all rational and animal beings
IX. To teach, distinct from prejudice, from veneration of antiquity, and from excess of novelty
X. To teach, to improve the science of instruction and mind
XI. To teach, duly appreciating the importance of the profession
XII. To teach, awed by the clamours of ignorance, yet governed by the dictates of wisdom
XIII. To teach, nothing from subservience to custom
XIV. To teach, with unremitted solicitude and faithfulness
XV. To teach, appreciating the value of the beings to whom instruction is given
XVI. To teach, regarding the matter as well as the manner of instruction
XVII. To teach, that alone which is useful
XVIII. To teach, in imitation of the Saviour
XIX. To teach, by exact uniform example
XX. To teach, in the inductive method
XXI. To teach, gradually and understandingly, by the shortest steps, from the more easy and known, to the more difficult and unknown
XXII. To teach, by the exercise of reason
XXIII. To teach, illustrating by sensible and tangible objects
XXIV. To teach, by clear and copious explanation
XXV. To teach, by strict adherence to system
XXVI. To teach, by simple and plain unambiguous language
XXVII. To teach, by short and perfectly obtained lessons
XXVIII. To teach, by encouragement
XXIX. To teach, but one thing at the same time
XXX. To teach, interestingly

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XXXI. To teach, principally a knowledge of things, not of words – of ideas, not names
XXXII. To teach, by consulting in the arrangement of lessons, that proportion of variety which is adapted to the genius and habits of the young mind
XXXIII. To teach, by keeping curiosity awake
XXXIV. To teach, nothing that pupils can teach themselves
XXXV. To teach, as much as possible by analysis
XXXVI. To teach, by exciting a laudable ambition for excellence, guarding against its opposite
XXXVII. To teach, endeavouring to make pupils feel their importance by the hope which mankind placed in their conduct
XXXVIII. To teach, endeavouring to preserve the understanding from implicit belief, and to secure the habit of independence of thought and of feeling
XXXIX. To teach, endeavouring to invigorate and bring into exercise all the intellectual, moral, and physical powers
XL. To teach, attempting to associate with literature the idea and perception of pleasure
XLI. To teach, attempting to induce the laudable ambition of progressive improvement
XLII. To teach, by consulting the feelings of scholars
XLIII. To teach, with animation and interest
XLIV. To teach, by furnishing constant, useful, and as much as possible, pleasing employment
XLV. To teach, treating pupils with uniform familiarity, and patience, and with the greatest kindness, tenderness, and respect
XLVI. To teach, by cultivating the collective happiness of the school
XLVII. To teach, by consulting the collective happiness of the school
XLVIII. To teach, by persuasion, not by coercion
XLIX. To teach, by comparison and contrast
L. To teach, by allusion to familiar objects and occurrences
LI. To teach, without indolence and discouragement
LII. To teach, pupils to teach themselves
LIII. To teach, by intermingling questions with instruction
LIV. To teach, with relation to the practical business of life
LV. To teach, endeavouring to fix things in the understanding rather than words in the memory
LVI. To teach, without bringing pupils in comparison with one another, or touching the spring of personal emulation
LVII. To teach, with reference to habit
LVIII. To teach, with Independence