

by our neighbors of the sunny South, or shall she pattern after the glorious and world renowned policy of New England, of Free Schools; where teacher and pupil are free taught, and where they raise or *grind* out free men.

Teaching is as much a profession as any other, and the *art* is as hard and difficult to be acquired as that of the Physician, Lawyer, or Carpenter. Must your Carpenter have learned his trade before you will permit him to build your barn?—and will you permit the self-constituted School Teacher to build up the future of your sons and daughters? Before you would suffer a Blacksmith to drive a shoe on your horse, you must be assured that he has learned his trade well. Is your horse of more value than your boy, that you will give him into the hands of a man unskilled, untaught in even the first rudiments of knowledge, to be trained up for manhood and immortality? Remember he will leave his mark, be he ever so dumb. Let wisdom take the place of neglect. Educate your Teachers, that they may educate your children. Only Normal Schools can do this. Examine the subject; ponder well, and then *act*.

TEACHERS' INSTITUTES.

In the absence of Normal Schools, there should be some provision made for the assistance of teachers, in sustaining *Teachers' Institutes*. I know of no place where a young teacher can acquire so much knowledge of his or her profession, in so short a time, and at so trifling an expense, as by attending an Institute. There should be one held in every county at least once a year, at which all the teachers of the county were expected, if not required, to attend. An appropriation of \$60 or \$100 a year would lighten the expense, and enable the teachers to procure the instruction of the best talent in the States. At such convention (as they might be called with all propriety,) teachers from different localities mingle together, giving and receiving the experience of years, and treasuring up funds of knowledge for future usefulness; learning from each other the best modes of government for schools; best system of instruction and plans of conducting recitations; with a thousand little, but all-important matters for the proper and successful management of the school-room. The teacher receives an influence from these associations which accompanies him to the school room, incites him