

to greater diligence in his duties, and makes him feel the responsibility of his profession.

I need not urge the importance of this step upon your attention by lengthy argument, or citations to other authority, to confirm what little I have said. I speak from experience when I say that there is no greater auxiliary to the rightly understanding and fitting out the teacher for his high and responsible calling, than that of *Teachers' Institutes*. Mind speaks to mind, and the soul catches the fire of resolve, when he breathes the experience of his fellows, and listens to their success or failure. If the experience of the older in life is an advantage to the young, surely that of the experienced teacher should be to the tyro. It should not only be an experience meeting, but one where the best methods of instruction, government, and all things connected with common schools should be presented—and then, in a few years, we would have teachers and schools worthy of any people.

QUALIFICATION OF TEACHERS.

The standard of qualification for teachers in our common schools should be raised as soon as possible. It may be found necessary, for a short time, to employ some who are deficient in many of the essential particulars which go to make up a good teacher; but that necessity should be done away with as soon as possible. Let the standard be raised, and we will not only have good teachers flocking into our country, but our young men and women at home will qualify themselves for the position. There is nothing more to be dreaded, in any community, than an ignorant school teacher. It is a calamity on any neighborhood, more to be dreaded than a pestilence. The one may strike down some of your children, but it will leave them untarnished; the other will poison their very being, and perhaps ruin them for life; he will leave a blight that time cannot eradicate.

Let the standard be raised and kept up. Let ignorant men and women learn that they cannot receive our money for the privilege of spoiling our children—for I do hold that improper instruction is spoiling, and worse than spoiling; it is destroying them. If "a little learning is a dangerous thing," certainly, when the little is bad in itself, it becomes not only dangerous, but positively injurious to the community. Then avoid it in time.