

stand the four primary rules of arithmetic, and likewise should know something of the geography and history of his own country. Recognizing this truth, government has, through our common school system, made ample provision so that every boy and girl in the state may receive thorough instruction in these fundamental branches of education *free of cost*. Our common school course of instruction, if thoroughly mastered, lays the foundation upon which *any one*, if so *disposed*, may build for himself a *liberal education*. It furnishes him the key that will unlock all the treasures of learning. They are the people's colleges, and the only ones from which nine-tenths of the boys and girls will ever graduate.

While I am not in favor of largely extending the course of studies in our common schools, I would like to have every scholar taught *drawing* and also some of the first principles of *sanitary science* in connection with *physiology*. It is as important that we teach knowledge that is necessary to a healthy physical development, as to teach that which helps toward healthy mental development, for the first is indispensable to the latter. As to drawing, we now in our common schools teach nothing but writing that in any way educates the hand or any of the senses. Drawing gives skill to the hand, the habit of *critical observation* and *correctness of perception*, and there is hardly a trade or occupation in which it could not often be used with benefit. Our common schools are doing a work that could be accomplished by no other agency, yet I think we do not appreciate them as we ought. Not one man in a hundred in Wisconsin is ever seen inside of a school-house while school is in session, or talks with his children about their studies, or show any interest in their progress by consulting with their teacher, or expresses any wish as to what they should be taught. We talk about making laws compelling parents to send their children to school a certain number of months in the year; would it not be better to pass a law compelling parents whose children attend school to visit them at least once a month? Were there a trotting track in the school district where each man had a colt in training by a professional jockey, do you doubt about the parties interested being spectators, or each man consulting with the trainer about the capabilities of his individual colt? Is a colt of more value than a boy? And would not the boys and