

tions as to the quantity and quality of those credentials, physical, intellectual and moral, which the welfare of our secondary schools demands of every teacher.

The storm-centre recently has been in Chicago, resulting from a disturbance of the elements in the arraignment of the public schools in an eloquent post-prandial speech by His Reverence, the eminent Bishop Spaulding, of Peoria. He said, in substance: "Women are employed almost exclusively in our public schools, because their services are cheap," and added that the same motive would justify us in employing convicts as a still more frugal method of securing teachers. It was an unhappy illustration, and brought down upon the head of the distinguished and eloquent celibate the imprecations of nearly four thousand women teachers of Chicago.

Without any argument as to the difference in the qualifications (which I conceive to be radical and fundamental) between men and women as teachers in our secondary schools, is not the statement of the bishop absolutely correct, when we get down to the final analysis of the motive which prompts the employment of such an abnormal ratio of women in our schools?

It is a maxim in all other kinds of business that the best is the cheapest, but in securing teachers, boards of education seek to be justified in reversing this truth, and making the cheapest the best. Go where you will you hear it said, "We need more men, but we cannot offer the salaries they demand. We do not blame them for refusing to accept our small stipend, and therefore we are compelled to employ women." This is a true statement, and as sad, as degenerating, and as degrading as it is true, and therefore ought not the sex, which represents the pathos, the purity, the

piety of this world, through whose nurturing influence the flowers of hope are made to bloom perennial in the garden of the heart, whose solace is a surcease of sorrow, and whose soul, instinct with the love of maternity, goes out toward childhood, to mould it through sympathy as does no other influence save the directly divine—ought not, I say, the sex to combine in their majestic potency to make this statement a libel rather than a truth?

You have doubtless seen in the series of articles now being written for *Harper's Weekly*, that in Massachusetts, of all its public school teachers 90.5 per cent. are women and only 9.5 per cent. are men. In Illinois 77.3 per cent. are women and 22.7 per cent. are men, and in your own state of Michigan 78.4 are women and 21.6 per cent. are men, while the average salary of men in Massachusetts is \$118 dollars a month and of women \$48; in Illinois, men \$56, women \$46, and in Michigan, men \$47 and women \$33. I am one of those who believe that the same work performed with the same skill, and producing the same beneficent results should receive the same pay. I also believe that at present there are more men than women thoroughly well qualified to teach in our secondary schools, and that therefore the large ratio of women to men in these schools militates greatly against the quality of the work they ought to turn out, as the crown of our public school education and as fitting schools for colleges. To this extravagant and unfortunate disproportion of women to men among the teachers of our secondary schools, is due, in some measure at least, the lamentable fact that in our public high schools 75 per cent. of the pupils are girls, and that 75 per cent. of the boys preparing for college attend the private fitting schools where the male influence largely predominates.

Do not misunderstand me; I be-