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EXAMINATION OF TEACHERS.

As the various County Boards for the Examination of Teachers now meet but once a year, it is of the utmost importance that those who purpose applying for certificates should give their earliest attention to the preparation of the work which they are expected to perform. We are aware that in some Counties it is still quite common for many to shirk the examination, trusting to the clemency or forbearance of the Inspector for a Permit. Our own opinion in this matter is, that Permits should only be granted under the most pressing emergencies. Only when it is pretty clear that a school must remain vacant from the want of a teacher, or when indisposition prevented a teacher whose certificate expired, from attending the Board, should a Permit be granted. It is an injustice to those who prepare themselves for examination, and who undergo the labor and expense of attending the Board, that others with less energy and more meagre attainments should reap benefits not justly belonging to them. "To the victors belong the spoils." And those who through indiffer-

ence or negligence fail to secure a certificate in the regular way, must not be disappointed if Inspectors refuse to give them any easier access to professional rewards than the regular mode of examination. The fact that a teacher or any person applies for a Permit at all, is to us a suspicious circumstance. It is too often but an excuse for evading the ordeal to which others are subjected, or postponing that ordeal to a more "convenient season."

Having said this much in regard to *Permits*, we next proceed to consider the question of Public Examinations for certificates. And first the *standard* (as it is commonly called), of qualification. We sometimes hear teachers say, that the standard for Third Class teachers is very high. We must say we don't think so. Indeed, we doubt very much if the standard for Third Class teachers is *very much* higher now than it was under the old County Boards. The trouble now is that the examination is so thorough, that teachers must reach the standard before they are allowed to pass. Under the old system a mere approxima-