

“Altogether, the success attending our labours has been highly gratifying. Let us not suppose, however, that our mission is accomplished. This Association has now a definite part to perform in the great work of education, which can be done by it alone. A few years ago, its utility was considered doubtful and its success uncertain; now its existence has become almost a necessity. But let not the good that has already been accomplished induce us to relax our efforts: let it rather encourage us to put forth renewed exertions. Every man owes something to his profession besides a certain amount of labour for which he receives pay. There may be callings more honoured, but there are none more honourable than that of the teacher. The foreign foe that invades our shores is not more to be dreaded than the ignorance that lurks in our midst; and the military hero that defends us from the one deserves not better from his country than he who rids us of the other. The faithful devoted teacher is a true patriot. It is not by whining and complaining about want of respect that teachers can hope to secure their proper position. They must be true to themselves. Let them but respect their calling, and it will command the respect of others. The man makes the position respectable, not the position the man. Now more than ever a feeling of harmony and good-will exists among our members. A disposition to unite more closely together is everywhere apparent. Our past history affords ground for satisfaction and thankfulness. Let us hope that a career of still greater usefulness is before us.”

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