

than bestir themselves and embrace fitting occasions to vindicate their characters, and without over-weening self-laudation or arrogant assumption of importance, to assert in a manly spirit their claims to the position of men usefully and honourably employed in one of the most responsible stations in life. What then, let us ask, is the estimation in which by at least a considerable portion of the community, the Profession of Teaching is held? It is no exaggeration to affirm that many people entertain towards Teachers a mingled feeling—half pity, half contempt—pity, for they picture them as the victims of unruly boys, subjected to annoyances from the stupidity or wilfulness of their pupils, confined to crowded rooms, wearied with the monotony of oft-repeated tasks, and in return for their toil, vexation and exhaustion, recompensed by a stipend so slender that it scarcely suffices to furnish the daily necessities of life;—contempt, for it is assumed that no man of spirit would endure such a life of combined labor and poverty; they therefore conclude that the ranks of Teachers are largely replenished from the class of the incompetent or the idle. Error is in great part a perversion of truth; caricature, a ludicrous and exaggerated representation of realities. It may be granted that there exists some basis for those distorted and unjust views concerning the Profession to which I have just alluded. Unquestionably Teaching is not the road to wealth. The *poor scholar* is a specimen of man not yet extinct. The emoluments enjoyed by the very highest Educational Functionaries in our Province, I might venture to add in the world, are not such as to create millionaires. The Rothschilds, the Peabodys, or the wealthy men in our own midst, have not made their money in the chair of the Professor or at the desk of the Teacher. To money seekers, therefore, we may say, *procul este!* Disappointment awaits you; you may gain your object elsewhere, here, you cannot.

But, is poverty a crime? does a slender income expose men to scorn? in the judgment of the world generally, yes—hence chiefly the disesteem in which teachers are held. There is also some shadow of ground for the idea that perplexity and annoyance are caused the teacher by the frolicsome disposition, or the diminutive intellectual capacity evinced by some of the members of his classes. But, what pathway in life is *all* strewn with flowers? Does the merchant experience no anxieties? are there no sudden fluctuations in the market? no financial crises? Has the lawyer no perplexing cases?