

## THE MODEL SCHOOL.

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I scarcely know in what capacity I appear before you to-day. When I look around me on the faces of the teachers, the old—not Adam—but the old teacher—wakes up in me, and I am compelled to address you as fellow teachers.

Your work and mine is after all on the same lines. What is it but the effort to lead children and men to lay hold of their life work intelligently and conscientiously? All true work is duty, and has both a moral and spiritual element in it. The question of fitting a teacher for his work in the very best way should always be a vital question in any living school system. So that the discussion of the Model School is most important. In it the teacher is to receive his special training for his profession. In his non-professional study he has gathered the material but his Model School Course has for its end the fitting him to reach the minds entrusted to his care, and draw out the latent powers in them.

Certainly he needs to know something of the nature he has to deal with, for the child's mind is not like a box in which he is to pack away stores of dates, and facts, and fiction. But I must not let myself wander into theoretical ground. The subject assigned me is "County Model Schools." I see that "Character training in Public Schools" is to be discussed, and that must necessarily touch the previous training of the teacher, and also "The more thorough Professional Training of Teachers," so that my ground is considerably narrowed.

This, all will agree with I am sure, that the Model Schools have done very efficient service in the past, and have very materially helped young teachers to enter upon their work more intelligently. I sent out a number of circulars with questions regarding the working of the Model Schools to gentlemen supposed to have given thought to the subject.

I was not a little surprised at some of the replies received. More than one seemed to have the idea that I meditated an attack on the Model School System, or that it was a stab at the Minister of Education. Others again shewed that very little thought had been given to the subject.

For some years I have been on the Board of Education in the town of Owen Sound, where we have a very efficient Model School. But my observation of the working of it there makes me feel as a trustee that we are "paying too dear for our whistle." That is, our town school