

# ADDRESS.

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*Ladies and Gentlemen,—*

My first duty to-night is to thank you for your kindness in electing me to the honorable position of first President of this Teachers' Association. I feel that the position is to some extent a responsible one, and I fully appreciate the confidence which you have reposed in me. If at any time it is in my power to further the interests of education in general or of this Educational Association in particular, you may consider me at your service. I am one with you. I am a teacher who has chosen the profession of teaching for life, and it is probable that I shall continue to be a teacher during the active remainder of my days. For six years I taught in large public schools, and I have taught in my present position for the last ten years, during four of which I filled the office of Inspector of Public Schools for this city. And although not now teaching in a public school, or in any institution amenable to the present school laws, yet I ask no higher honor than to be enrolled in the noble ranks of modern teachers. X + Y

Some years of careful observation and study upon the practical results of our educational system have led me to the conclusion that there are some things in our School System that are wrong in principle, and more which are burdensome in practice. I shall confine myself this evening principally to two points,

examination as a test of the qualification of a teacher, and the policy of a continual elevation of the standard of qualification. In dealing with these I shall endeavor to show in what respects and why I consider them unsatisfactory. I can assure you that I have taken up these subjects in no carping or fault-finding spirit, and that he who accuses me of so doing misinterprets my motives. It may be said that as I am not amenable to the educational authorities I am at liberty to speak my mind without fear of consequences. I disclaim liberty founded upon such a low principle. I have an advantage over the public school teacher only in that I cannot be charged with being an abnormally interested party. Who would not be at liberty to express his convictions upon the noblest institution of a free people? Who would not have a living interest in that which is the great guarantee of our freedom and the great motive power in our civilization? Who would trammel the right of an independent people to think and speak in a matter so important as this, or who would suffer himself to be hushed into silence through a fear of petty consequences? The power that would attempt it is tyrannical, and the people who submit to it are slaves.

We have an educational system in our land, which, if not very old, is at least

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