

Popular Instruction.—To instruct mankind in things the most excellent, and to honour and applaud those learned men who perform this service with industry and care, is a duty, the performance of which must procure the love of all good men.—*Xenophon*.

Importance of Education.—All who have meditated on the art of governing mankind, have been convinced, that the fate of empires depends on the education of youth.—*Aristotle*.

SELECTIONS FROM LOCAL REPORTS OF COMMON SCHOOLS IN MASSACHUSETTS.

Education is the life of the State.—It is the grand safeguard of public liberty. It is the cheapest mode of preserving order. It is an old maxim in the family, that it is better and pleasanter to pay the butcher than the doctor,—pleasanter to labour in order to feed a healthy and hearty family, than to toil for the payment of medicines and drugs; and with equal truth may it be said, that it is better to pay the schoolmaster than the jailer,—better to maintain the school than the prison; and there seems to be no choice for a community but between these two.

Importance of selecting good Teachers.—Much depends upon a right selection of Teachers. No school can prosper without good Teachers. A bad tree may as well bring forth good fruit, as a bad Teacher make a good school. A good Teacher combines in himself an assemblage of qualities not often found in the same individual. A familiar knowledge of all the required studies, aptness to teach, tact in management, decision mingled with gentleness and suavity, impartial justice, elevated moral sentiments, self-control, patience, energy, pleasure in the employment, a kind and cheerful disposition, and an ability to infuse into the youthful mind an enthusiastic desire of progress in knowledge and goodness. Perhaps there are few, if any Teachers, who unite in their own characters all the qualities described. We have some, however, who, besides being abundantly competent to fill their stations with honour, devote themselves to their work with an almost self-sacrificing assiduity. It is the true policy of the town to give each and all their Teachers honourable compensation, and insist upon a high order of services. And if, at any time, there are any, who, from constitutional infirmity or other causes, are manifestly unable to meet the just expectations of their employers, neither they nor their friends ought to take it unkindly, that their places should be supplied by others. All persons are not equally qualified for all duties; a man may be a good man, but a poor Teacher. Better that a single individual should suffer temporary disappointment in the failure of cherished hopes, than that a whole school should lose those golden days which are properly devoted to improvement, and to laying the foundations of usefulness and happiness, and which, once lost, can never be recalled.

On Parents attending School Examinations.—Your committee have observed, from year to year, the beneficial influence of the attendance of parents at the examination of the schools. In some districts, but few attend the examination.