

examiner will have to come to the bar and plead guilty when our educational system is put on trial. He cannot escape. He should not escape if he is in any way responsible for the imperfect training of the faculties—and if he is responsible in substituting therefor the training of one faculty alone, memory

I cannot say that examiners are incompetent. They are not. Justice compels me to say that they are a scholarly and highly respectable body of people, even if they are a little antiquated in their notions, and still devoutly worship that educational fetiche—the examination. But justice compels me also to say that they have not the courage of their convictions. They must realize every hour of the long day which finds them too often ruefully trying to make something out of nothing in the examination papers which come before them that there is something wrong somewhere,—when they see the results of too hasty work and ill digested ideas.

But what will you do with the examiner? "Turn him out," some one says. No, that would never do. We dare not write *Ichabod* on the doors of such a venerable institution as the Examination Temple! But what *will* you do with the examiner, may be asked in all seriousness, if knowingly he lends himself to a wrong, and allows to be perpetuated a system that induces a feeble and one sided training? If we judge that this Temple is too sacred to lay violent hands upon it, that examinations must be preserved as a necessary part of modern education, we must lay a petition before the educational throne, the Board of Education,—*to wit* :

If an examination is to be a real measure of educational growth there must be ample time and opportunity allowed the examiner to discover it. He should have ample time to frame questions and ample time to read thoughtfully and sympathetically the answers, as well as to test those examined in laboratory methods. Now, where work is paid, for the rate of pay is a pretty sure gauge of the estimate that is placed upon it. An examiner gets *ten cents* for every paper he reads and marks for college matriculation or teachers' license, and in some instances he is required to prepare *gratis* the examination paper. This work is usually done during the summer vacation. I hope I am betraying no professional secrets when I say that the first thing an examiner does on taking up a paper is to ascertain its length. Then a lightning-like calculation passes through his brain : if board at a summer hotel at a seaside resort costs \$20 a week for myself and family, how long will the fun last at ten cents a paper? The question solved, every nerve is set to accomplish his task, which Sisyphus-like he takes up afresh with every paper and with every recurring season. It is well for him if he does not take his task too seriously or imbecility would be the result.

I speak advisedly in this and from some knowledge of circumstances. When the examiners's questions call for mere information it is usually poured out lavishly, page after page, and in a vein that reminds him of the pages of the text book illuminated with mid-