

WHAT CAN TEACHERS DO TO DRAW MEN AND WOMEN OF LEARNING AND TEACHING POWER INTO THE SERVICE OF OUR SECONDARY SCHOOLS? *

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THIS question by its form implies a number of things :

First : That teachers of learning and of ability to impart are needed : that they are needed in our secondary schools ; *i.e.* that the number of teachers of learning and ability to impart is not adequate to the demand.

Second : That such men and women are not wanting in the world, but that for some reason they are reluctant to enter the service of the schools for secondary instruction.

Third : That these men and women can be drawn into the service of these schools.

Fourth : That something can and should be done by teachers to draw them into our academies and high schools.

A question, then, so pregnant with meaning, revealing a need in the field of education and a duty on the part of teachers, as well as of the general public and of the colleges, will naturally appeal with special force to this body.

It is ours, then, to ascertain what ought to be done, how it can be done, and then to do.

If, by their combination and organization, the labouring classes have accomplished so much for their own advantage during the past few years, what may not teachers accomplish to promote education by concerted action ?

They have the additional incentive to this effort, that whatever advances the interests of the schools promotes,

in the same degree, the welfare of the teachers.

Standing before this N. E. Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools, an association whose list of membership comprises so many names of learned and successful teachers ; in this city, whose schools have a world-wide reputation, one might naturally suppose that this question could require no discussion. But the very prominence and character of this body make its discussions and judgments of great value, and therefore its *ipse dixit* of discussion and resolution will be watched with interest, as indicating the trend of thought at the present day. Hence, it is desirable that this question should be laid before you for solution.

It may not be generally believed, even among educators, that there is any difficulty in securing teachers of learning and power to impart for our secondary schools. But the very fact that the question has been proposed for discussion indicates that some do believe that there is a need of considering it, and it is to be hoped that it will receive due attention, thought, and discussion.

But just here, let me say with Anthony :

I am no orator—

But as you know me all, a plain, blunt man.
For I have neither wit, nor words, nor worth,
Action, nor utterance, nor the power of
speech

To stir men's blood : I only speak right on ;
I tell you that which you yourselves do know :
Show you sweet Cæsar's wounds, poor,
poor, dumb mouths,

And bid them speak for me

and put a tongue
In every wound of Cæsar that should move

* Read before the N. E. Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools.