

public, which is served by the professions. It is in order that there shall be provided, for the benefit of the community, a succession of suitably educated and trained men to sustain the character and efficiency of those higher professions which must be efficiently provided for in every civilized community.

THE PROFESSION OF THE EDUCATOR.

Let it not be forgot, that in this aspect of the matter, the educator is himself a professional man, and that this profession of education is the highest of all from a civil and social point of view, and must be maintained by the State in the highest possible state of efficiency for the benefit of all the other professions to which it is subsidiary. Nor is this a mere theory. It is sustained by the practice of all civilized nations. The profession of the educator has been supported and regulated by the Government in a manner more careful and thorough than any other profession whatever, and the importance of this is daily more recognized in all the more advanced communities. In this respect the large sums given out of the public chest to support teachers, and the institution of special governmental departments for their encouragement and supervision, testify to the fact that education is recognized as the fundamental profession. It is, I know, pretended by some persons in this country—(I say pretended, for I believe it is a mere pretence, intended to influence the more ignorant)—that the care of the state should be limited to the support of merely elementary schools. But the experience of all the more advanced countries shows that such limitation is not consistent with the welfare of the community, and least of all with that of the poorer portion of it; because if the higher education is left entirely to private enterprise it may become a luxury of the wealthy, so that the poorer man not only loses its benefits, but the state loses the advantage that might accrue from the training of such high talents as God may bestow on the children of poor men.

The higher education is sometimes compared to the apex of a pyramid or to the ornamental capital of a column, but the comparison is only in part correct, for this kind of education furnishes the only adequate means of strengthening and broadening the