

grand opportunities. Do not trifle with your precious college days. You may not all win prizes or attract attention at examinations. The race is not always to the swift. Do not be discouraged if your morning star does not shine brightly, the shining may come later on in the day. Bring to bear on your work earnestness of purpose, self-reliance, perseverance, sobriety of speech and of behaviour, and you will be certain to vanquish every difficulty. Be determined to spend your college

days to some purpose, and you will surely carry with you into the world treasures which no thief can steal, and a fortune which no adversity can take from you. You will be the indisputable owner of stores of thought and of sources of happiness for all the days of your life. You will be the possessor of a trained and cultivated intellect, ready to do honour the highest or the humblest calling, and able to leave your race and the world better than you found them.

PUBLIC SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

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TEACHERS' MEETINGS.

As the season for teachers' meetings has arrived, it is worth while to inquire into the benefits that may be derived from attendance at them. There are some who are, or pretend to be, sceptical of any good results from these gatherings. They look upon them and speak of them as affording excellent means for the wind-bags of our profession to air their crotchets, for Inspectors to engineer any little plans for the management of their district, or for the more light-headed part of the profession to enjoy a holiday. Now, it may be at once asserted that such narrow views could only find lodgement in the brain of a cynic or of a grinding trustee. But granted that they are a means of ventilating crotchets. What would the world have been without men who had crotchets? Columbus spent ten weary years pestering the European governments with his crotchet of western discovery, until he at last induced the Queen of Spain to grant him three old ships, manned by men who knew they took their lives in their hands to gratify it. It was a mad crotchet of Palissy to believe he would find that enamel for his China, and yet his persistence, in following it out until success was achieved, is used to point a moral for both old and young. James Watt's steam engine and Robert Stephenson's railroad were crotchets with nearly all the world

until they were proved to be of incalculable benefit to mankind. Let us not therefore despise the hero of a crotchet, he may be the master of some truth or of some theory which, if rightly applied, will enable the scholar to ascend the ladder of learning with easier and surer steps. Then why should not the Inspector have the benefit of those whose opinion and experience he properly values to assist him in carrying out successfully the right administration of his district. That teacher is very light-headed indeed who attends a teachers' meeting with the view of spending a holiday. It is far from being regarded as such by the majority of those who are present, and if even the light-headed go back to their schools without having derived any benefit from the meeting, they are not only light but empty-headed, and the sooner they seek for "other fields and pastures new" the better.

An impartial view will convince one that these periodic assemblies of teachers are or may be made a source of great benefit to those who attend them.

They lead to better methods of teaching.—Without a means of coming together to exchange opinions and compare experience the profession may remain in the condition of Rip Van Winkle or the Sleeping Beauty. "Knowledge perfects nature," says Bacon, "and is perfected by experience." If this is true of each individual, how much more