

with the parents of the would-be candidates for Provincial Examination, she may be able to persuade them of the disadvantages under which high school students labor in a miscellaneous school, and induce them to make use of their County Academy, thus gaining a bloodless victory.

But in many sections there are parents who are ambitious for their children, but to whom the expenses of sending them to a town school would be too great a burden. With these the teacher could perhaps agree, for a reasonable remuneration, to give their children an hour of private instruction each night after school, and let them get along with as little help as possible while the regular school work was in progress. For this, she would possibly be considered mercenary, and be compared to her disadvantage with her predecessor, who "stayed hours after school all through the term and never dreamed of making any charges." But the giving of something for nothing is contrary to the laws of Nature, always was bad economics, and is no longer considered advisable even by dispensers of charity.

It may be thought, and quite rightly, that the trustees should take more responsibility in limiting the number of grades in their school. But trustees in rural sections are, as a rule, busy men, and so long as the teacher can maintain discipline, are not likely to concern themselves deeply over the grading. However, when their attention is called to the matter by a teacher who is tactful and reasonable, they can usually be depended upon to uphold her in her efforts to secure the greatest good to the greatest number.

In case the teacher succeeds in materially reducing the amount of high school work in her school, she will likely again, suffer in comparison with those who have preceded her, for in many rural sections a teacher's professional standing is still based on the number of students she is able to prepare successfully for the Provincial Examinations.

But pioneers must always expect a measure of criticism, and if the children of the common school grades are interested in their work, and make satisfactory progress, the parents will soon appreciate the fact, and public opinion will come to be with the teacher.

Then, in the interest of all classes of her pupils, of herself, and of the community in general, let the teacher use her every influence toward sending the high school students to the County Academy, where they belong, and, confining her efforts to the work of the common school, do that work well.

## HINTS FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER.

THE EDITOR.

Greatly begin; though thou hast time  
But for a line, be that sublime,  
Not failure, but low aim, is crime.

—Lowell.

To teachers' the year reckons itself from August to June, rather than from January to December. August is the month of beginnings. The beginning of a useful and happy life-work to many new teachers who join the ranks this year; to those already experienced, a new beginning, the turning of a fresh page. Do you ever count this as one of the advantages of a teacher's life? We ought to come back to school thankful not only for the rest and refreshment of the holidays, but also for the new start, the looking forward to a new year, with all its wonderful possibilities of usefulness and joy.

To be ready to make a good start, take a little time before school begins, not only to make definite, external plans, to draw up programmes, to prepare books and equipment, but to get into the right spirit. If you have been at a Summer School, you have probably come home full of enthusiasm; but that may have had time to fade a little before school opens. It is a good plan to read vigorously some good professional books and papers, to get a breath of the air of school. But nothing can take the place of quiet thought about your own duties and difficulties, your past work and your future hopes. Try to know yourself in relation to your work better than you did last year. Think also about the children, of *their* new beginnings, and of school from their point of view. Think of the power that you have to make them happy now, and of your opportunity to train them in some habit, or instil in them some principle, or open their eyes to some beauty, that will be