

ready to leave teaching directly it has netted the coveted purse; or by girls, to whom teaching means \$200 or so a year, until marriage brings relief and ends their sufferings. Don't understand, by this, that the young man is to be condemned, who uses fair means to obtain a proper end, or that the young woman is worthy of disapproval who embraces the first good opportunity which presents itself, for settlement in life, as the helpmeet of a desirable man. On the contrary, the young man is to be commended who avails himself of every legitimate chance offering for his elevation in the social scale, and it must give us all pleasure to remember that many of the best men in our courts, our pulpits, our surgeries, our offices, our editorial chairs, our legislatures, have taught the first book to young beginners in a country school-house. And the young female Teacher, who, intelligently and prudently, assumes the important cares and responsibilities of the married state, seeks that condition which should be and is the chief end of her sex, and has lived to some purpose. Entertaining these convictions, it would be folly to raise objections to the fact that the ranks of our school Teachers are yearly depleted by the marriage of scores of the best-looking and most sensible of the young women who hold certificates. But I *do* object to the regulations which have afforded facilities for crowding the ranks with those, whether male or female, who are too young to teach effectively a school containing pupils ranging from boyhood to adolescence, and who have outbid, in the keen contest for employment, old and tried members of the profession, whose salaries have been reduced by a competition as unfair as it is injurious to the educational interests of the community. And I especially object to the extraordinary facilities afforded to young girls to enter the profession, when it is evident that but a very small percentage expect to remain in it, and make it a life's work. The fact that early marriage is the primary and proper object of the great bulk of our female population, is proof that few female Teachers hope to continue in the teaching ranks, and to me it seems sheer folly to unnecessarily encourage the enlistment of so many in a labor for which they have little real liking, to which but few become attached, and from which all hope to speedily escape. An overstocked market, crowded with applicants for positions which their age and lack of life's experiences render them unqualified to fill, with justice to their pupils or themselves, has nevertheless presented "tempting bargains" to mistakenly penurious Trustees, for "cheap goods," in either the educational or dry goods market, ever find most favor with poor judges of quality. As a consequence, we are not receiving that benefit from our costly school system which we have a right to look for, and many of our young people leave the school which they have been attending as pupils, with a bald possession of mere words and phrases, and destitute of that valuable general knowledge which those invariably possess who have been subjected to the training given by a competent instructor. The only remedy for this undesirable state of things is an elevation of the standard, in the matter of age, and it is to be hoped that the day is not far distant, when our Minister of Education will boldly grapple with the difficulty.

There is another point to which I may be permitted to briefly allude. A cry is going up, in many places, which declares that we are overteaching our young men and women, that education gives a distaste for manual

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