

To admit the necessity for study is to admit our own ignorance, and that in itself requires self-denial. Then, too, improvement always costs effort. Most people find it easier to rest or sleep than to go to a teachers' convention, and when they do go they find that it requires less effort to sit still and criticise than to take part. It is easier to read a novel than a book on education, and besides, books on education and educational journals cost more money. It is easier and vastly more pleasant to most people to forget all about school except when inside the school-room door than it is to prepare lessons carefully and spend time and money and effort in improving themselves. It is easier and cheaper, too, to teach on an extended third-class certificate than to get a second, and then attend a Normal School, and easier still to rest with only a permit than to do either.

In short, if the plan will only work, the better way from a purely selfish standpoint is simply to ignore the question and treat it with silent contempt.

The success or failure of such a course will depend entirely upon the answer which *public sentiment* gives to the question at issue.

When in Europe I remember seeing the harvesting of two fields of grain side by side. In the one a man with a self-binder was cutting at the rate of twelve acres per day. In the other a motley group of men and women were laboriously working away with the old-fashioned hand sickles, and unitedly making less progress than the one man with the binder. The difference between the best-known modern methods of teaching and those applied in schools which still linger in the dark shades of pure empiricisms is quite as great as that between the sickle and the binder.

If the statement which I ask you to consider is entirely true it follows that the teacher who does not endeavor to advance along the lines indicated must fail to secure the best possible results, and in the opinion of many of those who believe the statement it will be held that in the maladministration of so high a trust he has been guilty of negligence almost criminal.

Not long since I heard a parent remark that he considered it so important that his child should be trained by the very best methods, that if he had the power he would never place him under the charge of a teacher who was not willing to answer the following questions in the affirmative under oath: 1st. Have you made a thorough study of the science and art of education? 2nd. Do you intend constantly to endeavor to