

modest, diffident, retiring, seemingly ever ready to offer a humble apology for very existence—men whose worth and merits are appreciated, little by those around them, not at all by themselves, but who labor on with fidelity and untiring zeal. These timid ones may find encouragement from what they see and hear during the progress of these and similar conferences. They will observe that in the ranks of teachers are embraced men of various degrees of talent, popular address, eloquence and experience, that although in these and other respects, all are not equal, yet there is a sphere for all; that success does not always depend upon literary lore or other eminent attainments, but that the faithful discharge of daily duties always entitles one to respect from others, always affords sufficient ground for the indulgence of a moderate degree of self respect. Still another class may be benefited by attendance at these annual gatherings—I refer to those who have in some unfortunate manner come to look upon their position, as the one not sufficiently elevated do satisfy their vaulting ambition—the younger members of the profession, it may be presumed, are most liable to this misconception, not having become imbued with a sense of the importance and value of the teacher's work.

In all professions, and indeed in all pursuits, only the few can attain to the positions of eminence and emolument. There are such positions in the profession of teaching as in the others. They are filled of course, by the most talented men, and the *tenuis*, those of more humble powers may enjoy a reflected lustre from connection and association with them. Is any teacher tempted to disparage his pathway in life, thinking it too contracted, too obscure for the exercise of his powers? let him recall to mind that the President of this Association for last year, a gentleman of high literary reputation across the Atlantic, as well as in this Province, does not disdain the duties of a teacher, that the Rev. gentleman who now so ably presides over the Association, left the rank of teachers only at the call of duty, to exercise the sacred functions of the ministry of the gospel, that the high and honorable position of Chief Superintendent of Education for the Province is filled by one who is not ashamed to refer to the time when he taught in a Grammar School.

We have thus glanced at a few of the advantages that may be reaped by an attendance at meetings such as these, more particularly, however, in reference to individuals than to the whole body of Teachers.