

And in this connection the following words of advice, given by a practical educationist to the country teacher are worth considering. When I consented to write something for teachers from the standpoint of a director, the country school teacher was in my mind, and still is as I write. Teaching in the city may be as laborious as it is in the country, but is less discouraging. In what follows, the writer has sought to economize space and time by addressing the country teacher directly.

1. Do not allow yourself to think that your work in the country is less important than that of other teachers elsewhere. It is true that the city teacher has more comfortable surroundings, greater facilities, more encouragement, and is usually better paid than you are; but on the other hand, you have the best, because the most promising material to work on. Remember that from the country school come at least four-fifths of the great, wise, and influential men and women of the present generation; and that this is certain to be true of the next generation as it is of this. The city and the country teacher may be compared to two workmen who are engaged in making axes; the one has the finer shop and forge, but the latter has the finer steel to work on, and makes the greater number of axes. The permanent influence of the faithful country teacher is usually far greater, and this circumstance may well be a set-off to some of the inconveniences of school teaching in the country.

2. You should set yourself to do some missionary work in the cause of education. You will find yourself sometimes in a neighbourhood in which ideas of what education should be are terribly insufficient for our time and country. It is your duty, as it may be your high pleasure, to assist in changing this state of things for the better.

You should feel bound by every principle of honor to make your profession as respectable as possible. Read, think, reflect, and having settled for yourself what good school work is, go in with all your force to realize your ideal. Show your patrons that you mean business, and that you have a distinct purpose in what you are doing. Zeal, energy and steady effort will make a mark in any community.

3. Do not think that because the people of the district do not visit your school that they are indifferent to the progress of the scholars. Doubtless there are some persons in most districts who do not care how the school goes on, but their number is small, and they are usually persons of no influence, perhaps without much character. The chief reason why parents