

sion. It has been supposed by some, that this voluntary obligation of morality and honour is not sufficient to secure the Students to the profession of School Teaching. The reply is, that this condition is the same as is required by the authorities of Normal Schools in the neighbouring States, where the temptations and habits of varied enterprise and adventure are more common and powerful than in this Country; that it is better for a man to pursue any profession as a freeman than as a slave; that, if a man does not pursue School Teaching voluntarily, he will not do so successfully and usefully; that it has been found, by actual experiment, that those who have regularly qualified themselves for School Teaching do, as a general rule, follow it, and that in the few instances of their being compelled, or induced, to leave the profession, they are not altogether lost to the interests of Common Schools. On this point it will be sufficient for me to quote the following statements and remarks of the Executive Committee for the Management of the New York State Normal School, in their Report of January, 1847:—

*11. Experience of the New York State Normal School in this matter.*

"It is found, upon examination of the School Register, that since December 18th, 1844, 508 students have attended the State Normal School for a longer, or shorter, period. Of this number 178 are now in the School; 6 have died; 14 were found to be incompetent for teaching, and were, at an early day, advised to engage in other pursuits; 11 left on account of ill health, unfitting them alike for study and teaching; and 29 left at an early period of their connection with the School, relinquishing for various reasons the purpose of teaching. If these numbers be added together their sum will be found to be 338; and, if this last number be subtracted from the whole number on the School Register, the remainder to be accounted for is 270. Of these 270, 144 are Graduates of the School; and the Committee know, that 129 of them have been engaged in teaching since their graduation; and of the remaining 15 Graduates, one has died, and the rest, with the exception of 4, are believed to be teaching, though no definite knowledge of their pursuits has been obtained. It may also be proper to state, that those persons, who have not been heard from, were Graduates of last term, and sufficient time has scarcely elapsed to afford an opportunity of learning their pursuits. Of the remainder of the 270, numbering 126, who left the School prior to graduation, nearly all, on leaving, declared that it was their intention to teach; 84 are known to have taught since they left, and but few of the others have been heard from. Thus, it appears, that the State Normal School has sent out 213 persons, who, when heard from, were actually engaged in teaching. In many instances, also, accounts have been received of the manner in which these Students were acquitting themselves as Teachers, and the Committee are happy to say that, as far as heard from, they are giving great satisfaction.

"From these statements it will appear that the assertion is without facts to warrant it, that the Students of the School do not design to teach. The most of those who have gone forth, and were competent to teach, are actually and successfully engaged in teaching. Furthermore, the Committee have the facts to prove that four-fifths of the pupils who have entered the Normal School had taught before they came to it, and this, independent of the facts above named, would justify the presumption that, in coming to the Normal School, they wished to fit themselves the better for the work of teaching, and expected to devote themselves to it; for why would they come to a School, the exercises of which are designed for the benefit of Teachers, unless they wished to fit themselves to become such.

"It appears, therefore, to the Committee, that the Normal School must do great good, because it has already done much. It has sent out 213 persons, (the most of whom had taught school before,) with higher aims, increased order, more extensive acquisitions, and with greater aptness to teach than it found them; facts prove this to be true, and what has been already done can be done again, and it is confidently believed it will be.

"But thus far, the indirect good influence of the Normal School has been greater than the direct influence. The pupils returning to their homes, have awakened a deeper