

how scholarly, successful or unsuccessful, can become a better teacher than he or she now is by a more extended study, investigation and application of the fundamental principles of education.

The issue is definite, and the line of cleavage clearly established between those who agree with this statement and those who differ from it.

If the statement be entirely false, every teachers' training school should be abolished and all books on education burned. The idea of teaching ever becoming a profession should be at once abandoned. All educational journals, teachers' associations and other institutions, which have for their main object the raising of the teaching standard of the country, should cease to be. All safe-guards to the teaching profession should be at once and for ever removed, and everyone who possesses the minimum quantum of knowledge for instruction and who wants to make a little money at teaching school should at once be let loose upon a class, provided no one else can be found to do the work at a lower price. I think you will agree with me that it would be difficult to devise a scheme which would more quickly and efficiently stop the clock of progress. And yet there are many, and among them not a few teachers, who have never deemed the question worthy of a single hour's serious consideration. This is in a measure, perhaps, due to the peculiar light in which the statement has at times been presented. The cause of professional training has suffered not a little from the bluster and braggadocio of would-be friends with scant knowledge and no experience, who, having crammed up a few professional books, have succeeded in passing an examination where all the candidates, owing to a charity (falsely so-called), were allowed to receive certificates to teach. A student may easily take such a course without assimilating anything of real value, and without receiving that culture which always brings with it the grace of humility. Such an one is sometimes heard complaining that scholarship and experience count for nothing, and loudly demanding that any who do not possess a sheepskin similar to his should at once be compelled to step down and out, in order to give him place. It is scarcely to be wondered at that men of profound scholarship, liberal culture, and successful experience should turn away from such exhibitions with disgust, feeling that even the word "pedagogy" has been disgraced.

There is, however, another and perhaps more general reason why with some the subject receives but little attention.