

sertion by careful study and research." The spirit of thoughtful enquiry which is abroad in the land has entered the classroom; and it bids the teacher look well to his laurels, while it compels a fair and independent attitude toward every question, and requires that the man who guides the growing and expanding mind of youth be worthy of his station.

Again, the most casual observer cannot fail to note the wide-spread signs of a *restless energy* which is permeating and penetrating our civilization. In the cities the faces of the people are anxious, eager, earnest, full of fire and force and purpose; and the inspiration of their intense activity thrills and quickens the life of the age. The farmer is moving to the village, the villager to the town, the burgher to the metropolis. The cities are sounding night and day with the babel of strange tongues, the clamour of many voices, the clash of mighty engines, the ceaseless din of trade and commerce, and the roar of giant industries. A visitor from England thought that every man in the streets of Boston was hurrying home to dinner, and that every man in New York was rushing to a fire. I wonder what he thought when he reached Chicago!

In the face of this prevailing habit of our time, what teacher can afford to lag in lazy fashion in the rear of the procession? If we except the college professor, very few amongst the multitude of teachers have become famous. The fault lies in the low conceptions which are entertained with reference to the function of the educator. There is not sufficient loyalty amongst the members of the craft. A noble and most honorable occupation is made the means of temporary livelihood. The embryo preacher or lawyer turns aside to teach, that he may earn an amount sufficient to enable him to complete his studies. The maiden fair makes teaching a means to the higher end of a wedding trousseau. Very often those who continue to teach are the unambitious and the incompetent. The spirit of enthusiasm, of energy, and of god-like earnestness, present in every other sphere of action, is sadly needed here. Enthusiasm of the right sort means devotion, whole-heartedness, entire consecration. It means loyalty, and life-work for a chosen cause.

The teacher must give *himself*; his brain, his heart, his life, his all. The school-room is the place of boundless opportunity for the teacher as well as for the scholar. The best teachers are not those who know the most, but those who give the most. If "it is the destiny of man to perfect himself," it is the high mission of the teacher to perfect himself