

I therefore resolved to spend the greater part of my money in education, and then turn it to the best account that I could. I spent over two years in our common school, and two terms at the Normal School. During this time I composed only one little poem, but I made a number of vain efforts to get some of my poems into the magazines. I learned, to my disappointment, that there was no demand for that kind of goods, and no money in the business; and I could not live without money, so at length I very reluctantly abandoned the poetical profession, and turned all my attention to money-making. I courted Mammon in vain till I was thirty-eight years of age, at which time I was reduced to day labor as the only means of supporting my family, which consisted of seven; and saw no prospect of getting into any business or situation above a laborer. Such was my position at that period. And now I put to myself this question: Shall I, after the time and money spent in education, and the hopes and fancies indulged