

upon that, and only that, which will serve as stepping stones over the impediments, that are presented on all sides. And here, training preparatory to entering the race of life, concentrate your mind upon that which will aid you in the accomplishment of life's journey. We find many, after the work of college life is completed, entering upon engagements just contrary, to that in which the mind was occupied, during the time in school and consequently as a natural result, are wholly unfit as well as unprepared. Failures in life, then, are of no uncommon occurrence. The want of something to do, the long waiting to discover that duty which was yours to fulfill, the undertaking of that for which you are unprepared, reveals the cause and paints a life picture, stamping a warning upon the minds of every one, to let loose ambition from its narrow bounds, and follow whence it may lead you, mistaking not the true pleasures of life, falling into the path of serious faults and even crimes. Guarding against the evil of being diverted from the course, upon which you have started, and by honest toil gaining step by step, the harvest of a true and well lived life will be reaped.

A NEEDED REFORM.

Among the young people, especially students, a mania seems to prevail for teaching school, caused no doubt by the financial condition of the students, the easiness of the labor and the bountiful reward received in return for their services. But under the present management of the school system, throughout our state, a sad error is being made, which is gradually but surely being nursed into a contaminating evil. Through the leniency of the law regulating our district schools, it is a comparatively easy matter to serve in the capacity of a teacher. The requirements are few, and with only a meagre knowledge of that which is proposed to teach, and with far less ability to teach it, the privilege of teaching is granted. Thus

inviting into a field of labor, responsible and important, requiring ability and efficiency, a class wholly unprepared, incapable, totally unfit. 'Tis true, less ability and mental culture is needed for even successful teaching in the new and sparsely settled districts of our state. But in establishing the necessary requirements, with which the applicant for a teacher's certificate must comply, the grade has been made far too low, which is working an unpardonable evil both to those instructing as well as those being instructed. The students who have depended upon teaching as the means of support, are looking elsewhere for occupation, because they find it far from being as profitable as in the past.

The schools are filling up with a class of unqualified persons, who can offer their services at a much lower rate, thus excluding those who are far more capable and efficient, consequently deserving. An easy remedy is at hand, and that by simply making the applicants pass a more severe and rigid examination. The result is manifest. That class, so injurious to themselves, as well as the ones whom they attempt to instruct, will be compelled to seek that labor for which they are better adapted, while a class more competent will seek their places. There always will be a demand for teachers in our young and growing state, and when the supply is reduced, wages will consequently become higher, offering inducements to those who have removed the barrier to successful teaching, by careful preparation.

Dr. Fifield, in the columns of the *Central Press*, asks why can not the University offer as great inducements to those who find it more convenient to attend the University, and desire to fit themselves for teachers, as they will find at the Normal School? The question is an easy one. The University, with all its various classes, and the almost complete corps of professors, can accommodate students with any particular course they may desire to pursue, and although preparing students