

Teachers, the Bulwark of our Republic.

A well trained and well paid corps of teachers is the most permanent foundation that our government can rest upon, as the culture and intellectual progress of a nation can always be determined by the number and proficiency of its teachers. The teacher moulds the individual, individuals mould the nation. It is useless to have learned statesmen and judges to make and interpret the laws, unless the people obey and respect them. What avail would our congress alone be in the centre of Ethiopia? Could all its learning and eloquence sway the savage mind?

What a marked contrast between Prussia, with its large and intelligent corps of teachers, and France, where priestcraft takes the place of the intelligent teacher! In the conflict between Prussia and France victorious Prussia was more indebted to her teachers than to her soldiers. The French could not long withstand the intelligent army of the Prussians. It was a conflict between knowledge and illiteracy. We need not go abroad for examples, as our own country contains numerous illustrations. Mark the difference between New England, with its landscape thickly dotted with schoolhouses, and Louisiana that whips and starves her teachers. In one, law and order reign supreme; in the other, disorder and tumult. The cause of this disorder is thought, by some, to be the lack of higher education. It seems that this can not be, as Louisiana, Texas and others have higher institutions of learning that will almost compare with New England. This state of affairs in these sections can not be remedied by learned politicians, doctors, or lawyers. Neither can it be obviated by the learned clergy; as they are only mendicants of souls. But it can be done by an army of intelligent and enthusiastic teachers; as they are the makers of souls.

It is not necessary that the majority of the people receive a classical education. But it is essential that our teachers should be highly educated, that they may instil into the youth of the rising generation, patriotism, and a love and admiration for the good, the true and the beautiful. If teachers will endeavor to fill our youth with enthusiasm for knowledge, a sufficient number of them will, undoubtedly, seek the higher education.

Russia, which has made such rapid strides of late years, has lately adopted the compulsory educational system. And she has no doubt raised the standard of her teachers accordingly. While New Mexico, which is relapsing into semi-barbarism, uses every effort to crush common school education. Gov. Giddings, of New Mexico, in his message says: "New Mexico claiming to be a civilized people, exhibits the mournful fact, that outside of Santa Fe there is scarcely a school of any kind whatever."

We are apt to think that all American institutions are the best. But Germany is far ahead of us in both common and higher education. On arriving on our soil, what a contrast the Germans see between our educational facilities and theirs. They do not find those noble and intelligent teachers that they had in their own land. But they are compelled to have their children taught by school juveniles whose minds are not matured enough to be their *own* guardians. They see that almost anyone may become a teacher; a person that has not ingenuity enough to

drive a nail straight might teach. It is reasonable, then, that their estimation of our free institutions is less after arriving in this country than when they first left their own. If as good facilities were afforded for educating their children as in their own country, they would undoubtedly take greater interest in the affairs of state.

Examining the yearly report of the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics, we find that the number of mechanics, farmers and laborers who arrived in this country, to be about 310,000, while there were only 480 teachers. From this we could conclude that there is a yearly increase of about 300,000 immigrants who depend upon us for the education of their children.

If our nation would retain its prosperity, these *must* be educated. The question is, have we the means wherewith to do it.

Our school buildings may be elegantly complete, and charmingly beautiful, but these are naught without the teacher. What a grand field is open to the teacher—not the pedagogue, but the life-sustaining teacher. Not one who is gorged and surfeited with facts, whose mind is a fossilized entity, but one whose thoughts and actions—nay, whose very presence—will be an incentive to a higher and nobler life, one who will incite the mind to think, to act, to observe for itself. This, in brief, is the ideal teacher that is hoped ere long to be realized. Where could a young and energetic person find a more noble and holier calling—a calling that is free from the temptations of the law and corrupt politics. Indeed, if the rising generations could be educated aright by noble-minded teachers, corruption in politics would be rare, and there would be little need of lawyers and doctors, who now live by people breaking the laws of the country and of physiology. The crying demand of our country is more educated teachers. Who will respond to the call? When educators and teachers will be at the front of civilization, when they take the place of dishonest lawyers and crafty statesmen, then, and not till then, shall we have reached our glorious goal. D.

Corruption.

Corruption always did exist, and always will exist. Much has been said in regard to the corruption that has existed in our government, and which has recently been exposed. This gives ample proof, of what we advocated in the last issue, *viz*: that corruption is increasing, that American politicians have a burning desire for *gain*, and for which they are ever ready to sacrifice their *honor* and *character*. Let us stop here, and observe who makes the politician. It is not the man who has means, it is not the man, who blest with nature's highest gift, intellectual power. No, this class of men very seldom can be called politicians, and only take that part in politics which is the duty of all American citizens. In the majority of cases, our politicians are those who have been un successful in some undertaking. Perhaps a profession, for it seems that the largest class of political men claim to be lawyers, and who, being incensed with the hard and incessant labor that falls upon a lawyer, and who, not having the patience to sit all day, digging out some frivolous and technical point upon which his case may depend, and being captivated with political life, they burch out into the political world, searching for gain, destitute of principle, destitute of every-

thing, that tends to make a man honorable. And when any position of trust is placed in his hands, that *burning desire*, that *voracious thirst* for gain develops itself, and he steals, no, not steals, but embezzles every cent that is in his power to do. Now we do not wish to be understood that all politicians are of this class, if so we wrong great and honorable men. There have been men, and there are now, who are distinguished actors upon the political stage, without a particle of dishonesty coursing within their veins, true to their country, honest in all their dealings, upright in all of their transactions. But the number is comparatively small. The political boat is an exceedingly hard one to ride, let the waves be ever so tranquil. You know not at what moment the boat, like a machine of Yankee ingenuity, will capsize, hurling the rider into the turbulent waves of intricate disgrace. At the present writing, the news goes flashing across the continent, that Mr. Belknap, the secretary of war is caught in the act of defrauding the government out of vast sums of money, and in scarce twenty-four hours, it is known all over the continent, that a man who had always had the reputation of being honest and upright had fallen into a state of degradation and dishonor. This again illustrates what we have said above. Mr. Belknap was a young man, who had served faithfully as a soldier of the late war, and at the time of his appointment making a scanty living by the means of the law. 'Tis true, perhaps he deserved some reward for his services in the late rebellion, undoubtedly, he did. But why was he appointed, instead of some of those others, who were far superior to Belknap, who held offices in the late war, of higher rank than he, who were older and abler, and who were far more worthy of it? Simply because Belknap, who had played upon the political stage, had influence over the President.

We do not get the good and honest men of our country to fill our positions of trust and honor. They are the ones that remain at home, performing the duties of their profession, of their trade, or whatever duty that devolves upon them with honesty, intelligence and alacrity. Refusing to be intricated in political squabbles, and ever ready to do any act that may tend to be beneficial to their country's welfare. There is one great mistake that the young men of the present day make. They have an idea, to become great and wealthy, they must become politicians. Were it the reverse, to become wretched and miserable, they would be right. To young men, we would say—let politics alone. Seek not the petty offices of our government, for they are all trivial, compared to a good and well learned profession. Live, and perform your duties in public, and in private life in an honorable manner, and the *offices*, the *positions of trust and honor* will seek you and early find you. The question now is, how is this dishonesty, this corruption going to be stopped. This question is not easily answered, but in our opinion, there is only *one* way in which it can be remedied, and that is, to teach man to fear the *hereafter*. Man's fear of his fellow men, the fear of the stringent pangs of the law, has comparatively little check over the feelings and doings of men. With the prospects of escaping the law, (as too frequently is done,) men hesitate not for a single moment, to perpetrate any willful and malicious act.

The religious inclinations of mankind each day grow less, and as long as this

continues, corruption increases. When man has simply learned to fear the law of God, then will corruption be done away with, and the bright sun of posterity be made to shine for ever more. But as we said above, the religious tendencies of mankind are growing less. Free thought, *free speech*, is taking its place, and instead of the sun of prosperity growing brighter, it is darkened by the vast gloom of dishonesty, and lost forever in the clouds of corruption. SAM PAINE.

The Man of Energy.

A person cannot help but express his pleasure when he sees an energetic man. It is said that neither time nor tide wait for any one, and even the sluggard, who idly waits for the coming of the mythical better days, feels an interest in the person who perseveringly takes advantage of every opportunity and pushes on to something better. Truly, a man may be possessed by a great ambition, but where he has not welded energy fast to his ambition, success can never crown the efforts which he so feebly puts forth.

When a man desires to become an expert in using a gun so as to shoot with accuracy, he puts up a mark and with unceasing perseverance shoots at it. So in the vast field opened up by education, there are many objects to which the attention may be riveted, and if there is not a settled purpose to hold one, the many are liable to divert to such an extent that no great or worthy results can be attained. Presuming that the individual selects that which he most wants, mere wishing can never cause the fulfilment of his desires; but the greater the height desired to be reached, the more the energies are taxed to gain the goal.

The asserting of our will to do some certain act, or to pursue some certain course in life, is no index to the force that is needed to energetically push forward in the course we have described for ourselves. It is an easy thing for a boatman to wish himself across a river, he can easily lay his plans concerning the trip, but it is work to land his skill on the opposite bank. A man given to reasoning will at once conjecture how to possess himself of the means necessary to acquire a certain end, while the man of energy will at once proceed to put his ideas into execution.

It is often that, while we do not admire the result obtained, we express our admiration for the person through whose energy it has been accomplished. It is natural to see some of our fellow men achieve success, whether it be in science, or art, or on the rostrum, or in any of the various branches of the many kinds of business we have in life. It is with pride we point to our merchant prince, who rose to his present position in life from the humble occupation of selling matches in the street. The sage, who presents us with such new truths in science as he has gained by severe study, commands our hearty admiration. The newspaper editor, who by his energy causes his paper to take a leading place among the papers of the day, is the favorite of the people.

The student in college, who energetically prepares to compete with any, is generally one of the leaders in school. The young man who enters college and energetically prepares himself to conquer everything which he finds in his way, can look forward to the future with a bright heart, and if he is endowed with any qualifications necessary for the business which