

that an indifferent teacher may do more harm than good by giving a lesson on the most sublime topic, while a really good one will so treat even the most prosaic subject as to administer a moral tonic to all his pupils—that he will thus appeal to their higher sense of duty and inspire them with that enthusiasm which, as Mr. Inspector Neale truly remarked in his paper, has its origin in the deep spiritual qualities of the mind.

Such a paper as that to which we have referred is worthy to be preserved for future reading by the teachers. It should be studied in conjunction with the memorable and noble utterance of the late Inspector-General at Ballarat, and others of its kind, and it will prove bracing and stimulating, more especially in times of professional dejection or difficulty. To every mental worker, and especially to the teacher, there come moments when the sordid aspects of his or her labour present themselves with cruel persistency—when a kind of materialistic pessimism floats mistlike over the mind; and then communion with the best thoughts of other educational enthusiasts may prove helpful and stimulating. There is need to emphasize the fact that no man, in any useful walk of life soever, can do full justice to his work unless he be affected by the consciousness of having what Mr. Neale calls “a mission.” Mixed motives make up the sum total of human impulses, and the statement that the progress of any true teacher’s pupils formed his sole object in life would be as much an exaggeration as the assertion that the drawing of his salary was the only professional thing for which he cared. To the teacher as to the preacher one may apply the words of Ruskin — “His stipend is a due and necessary adjunct, but not the object of his life—if he be a true clergyman—any more than his fee or honorarium is the object of life to a true physician.” Of course, when ministers of religion are so excited by controversy as to declare that others—such, for instance, as actors—think of nothing but money-making, they get the *tu quoque*, and they cannot fairly complain of it; but, applied to the great majority of human efforts, such a view is essentially false. Only in natures akin to the brute creation do motives sink so low as to remind one of the tramhorse that does so many hours’ pulling at two leather straps solely for the sake of the feed which follows his work. The choicer spirits who in every avocation perform for the world the work which benefits it most keep constantly in mind the fact that man is the social animal of creation, and that the

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value of all effort must be gauged by its ultimate effects upon society. In Australia, as in England, the hope for future educational progress depends mainly upon the success with which high-class men and women may be attracted to the profession. The statement may seem paradoxical, but enthusiastic teachers—men and women who love their work and habitually keep the higher motives before

them—are not to be secured unless by offering a fair remuneration. Such enthusiasm is valued in other trades and professions, and “there is always room at the top.”

Both Inspector Neale and Dr. Torr lay great stress upon the idea that it is the duty of the State to train its teachers. In the opening address of the President of the Union it was intimated that, through the munificent liberality of the late Sir Thomas Elder, there was a prospect of utilizing the University much more than had ever been done before in this direction. As Dr. Torr pointed out, there is no Chair of Pedagogy in that institution; and in some of the other branches of study which teachers are expected to take up, notably geography and history, absolutely no provision is made for instruction in the University. The extension of the already existing scheme of day and evening scholarships will enable a much larger number of State school teachers to derive benefit from the classes at the highest of our educational establishments. It has been objected that hitherto the tendency of the Training College, with its very long list of subjects crowded into a very short space of time available for study, has been to set before the teachers a false ideal of mere memory-work, as opposed to mental training and discipline—a mistaken notion which was aptly likened by Mr. Inspector Rix, of Victoria, to the placing of a few cut flowers into the soil and expecting that they would form a garden. The adding to the scholar's curriculum of a new subject—such as agriculture or science, as advocated by Mr. Monk—will not do much good if it be taken up merely in the spirit of “cram.” In this direction all that can reasonably be required is to give to the child's mind what Mr. J. Willmott referred to as a “bias” towards rural pursuits. The State ought similarly to endeavour to affect the minds of the teachers themselves with a “bias” towards the acquisition of the rare and valuable art of making the young learner's tasks joyful instead of burdensome. At the other end of the teacher's career care ought to be taken that the efforts of the schoolmaster to provide for his declining years should not be unduly discounted. It is a curious commentary on the eagerness

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of the State to enter into the lists of competition for banking securities that the Teachers' Superannuation Fund should have suffered so severely through lack of borrowers, and that, as pointed out by Mr. Acting Justice Russell, the result of this difficulty must inevitably be a reduction in the benefits offered to aged or disabled teachers. Still, on the whole, the proceedings of the Conference this year have shown that the status of the profession is being steadily raised. Seldom has a more intelligent or thoughtfully appreciative audience been gathered together within the walls of the University than that formed by the visitors who attended there on Tuesday evening. Such reunions do much to cheer by thoughts of sympathetic co-operation the lives of many who, even amid the bustle of the schoolroom, often feel disheartened by a sense of solitude and a lack of companionship.

"Advertiser" 4th Oct. 1897

THE COUNTRY.

MOUNT BARKER, October 1.

George Wilks, who was committed for trial at the Local Court on Tuesday for larceny as a bailee of a cheque for £2, the property of William Freeman, an old Macclesfield resident, was unable to get bail locally, but on being taken to the city on Wednesday morning in charge of Sergeant Richards the necessary sureties were obtained.

The series of University extension lectures on "Astronomy," arranged by the Institute committee, has been well attended throughout, so that the Institute has not suffered financially in its desire to carry out its proper educational functions. The concluding lecture was given on Wednesday evening, and at the close Mr. R. W. Chapman, M.A., was loudly applauded for his interesting and instructive discourses.

"Register" 17th July 1899.

The Registrar of the University of Adelaide, Mr. C. R. Hodge, is at Mount Gambier for the purpose of establishing a permanent centre here, so that certain University examinations may be held locally whenever candidates are forthcoming. A meeting to appoint a committee is to be held on Thursday afternoon.

"The Advertiser" 2nd Nov 1897

The Rev. Dr. Paton and Dr. Whittell have been chosen by the University Council to represent that body on the Board of Governors of the Public Library.

"The Advertiser" 6th Nov 1897.

Mr. Edward Angus Johnson, a son of Mr. James Angus Johnson, of Prospect, and one of the trustees of the State Bank, who proceeded to the Melbourne University about 12 months ago to complete his medical course, has just gone through his final examination successfully and the degree will be conferred shortly. Mr. Johnson was a student at the Adelaide University until the Medical School was abolished.