

character of the schoolmaster as it deserves, and it has consequently suffered in the two-fold ratio of inferiority in the capacity of the instructors and a deplorable deficiency in the amount of instruction imparted. It is in vain that the State directs its energies to the establishment of public schools, and expends its means, in their establishment and maintenance, while such a condition of things as this is permitted to exist. We may bring the means of education so far as school-houses and books may be concerned, within the reach of every citizen, but unless we are equally anxious to obtain the services of gentlemen well qualified to communicate instruction, and who may associate with our families upon equal terms, so that their moral, as well as their official influence, shall be seen and felt by our children, our efforts must fail or at least fall very far short of their ultimate object.

But your committee also regard the usefulness of such a chair as the proposed in another point of view. It cannot, your committee think, be otherwise than desirable, and the time cannot be far distant, when the present desultory and unorganised system of public instruction will be abandoned, and one more homogeneous and consistent will be adopted in its stead. Although the consideration of this subject does not strictly fall within the province of your committee, yet they think that the position which they have stated is so self-evident as to need no argument to prove it. Would it not then be of great importance that the persons who might be called upon to take charge of these schools should be so educated as that they would be thoroughly impressed with the necessity of pursuing a common system, identical in its fundamental principles, however it might differ in some of its less important details?

Another advantage resulting from the endowment of such a chair would be a greater subdivision of labor, and a relief from the very severe burden which now rests upon the present professors. Your committee understand that in consequence of the very small number of professors, they are obliged to hear a much larger number of recitations during the day than is usual at any other of the colleges of a similar grade in the United States. The gentlemen now filling the chairs in the institution do not complain; but it must be evident that they cannot, from the very nature of things, devote as much attention to the advancement of the students in the various departments of science, under existing arrangements, as they might under a greater subdivision of the labors of the establishment.

Your committee would therefore earnestly press upon the consideration of the Legislature the importance and propriety of relieving this deficiency in the professional arrangements of the college—believing, as they do, that a portion of the surplus fund received from the United States could in no way be invested with more profit to the community than by the endowment of such a chair as this. Indeed, your committee venture to reiterate it, as their opinion, that the system of common school education cannot, and never will, be perfectly carried on without it.