

or their various positions, endeavoring in every reasonable way to render the system popular, by making it do a good work for all the people, it will live to scatter its blessings upon the generation, which will ere long rise up and call those blessed who provided the Free Schools in which every child can be taught. The words of an eminent and zealous supporter of Free Education are true: "In our time and in our country, no man is worthy the honored name of statesman, who does not include the highest practicable education of the people in all his plans of administration. He may have eloquence, he may have a knowledge of all history, diplomacy and jurisprudence, and by these he might claim in other countries the elevated rank of statesman; but unless he speaks, plans and labors, at all times and in all places, for the culture and edification of the whole people, he is not, he cannot be an American Statesman."

Daniel Webster congratulated himself "that his first speech in entering public life was in behalf of public education. Education, said he, to accomplish the ends of good government, should be universally diffused. Let no man have the excuse of poverty for not educating his offspring. Place the means of education within his reach, and if they remain in ignorance, be it his own reproach."

Speaking of the noble mission of education, the same eminent man said: "If we work upon marble, it will perish; if we work upon brass, time will efface it; if we rear temples, they will crumble into dust; but if we work on men's immortal minds, if we imbue them with high principles, with the just fear of God and their fellow men, we engrave on those tablets something which no time can efface, but which shall brighten and brighten to all eternity."

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