

parents, you will permit me to offer a few suggestions to them. In our visitations we have been very much gratified with the evidences of faithfulness on the part of our teachers generally, and the manifest improvement made by the children. We would however, impress upon the minds of all our teachers the importance of giving attention to what might be regarded as minor matters. First, in regard to reading, we have found pupils in a few instances who seemed totally ignorant of the use of stops, and who would sometimes make a full pause at a comma, and treat a period as if it were a comma or a semicolon. It is highly important that the teachers should give strict attention to the spelling and reading of his pupils. They should be taught to enunciate every word distinctly, and carefully to observe the stops and understand their import. We were exceedingly gratified to find many of our teachers careful in what might be regarded as small things, but which nevertheless lie at the foundation of good scholarship. We venture the opinion that the children who enjoy the instructions of such teachers as Messrs. Nichols, Jones, Bidwell, Jacobs, Dodson, Cornelius, Mrs. Ditty, Miss Chew, Miss Lang and many others in our County, are as well taught and will acquire as high an intellectual culture as they could receive at any boarding school. The more advanced pupils have made great proficiency in Grammar, History, Chemistry, the Science of Common Things and Natural Philosophy.

Having then these advantages, it behooves parents to see to it that their children are punctual in their attendance, that opportunities are afforded them to study their lessons at home, and thus secure to their offspring all the advantages within their reach. It is a matter of profound regret, that along the Bay Shore, children in some instances do not attend half the time. Their parents, being engaged in oystering and fishing, often keep their boys at home when they ought to be at school.

And now, having hastily passed under review the operations of the new system in our County, we may be permitted to ask, in view of its manifest superiority over all that have preceded it, whether it is not the duty of every good citizen and well-wisher of the rising generation, to use his influence in favor of the cause of popular education. Even in a temporal point of view it is our manifest duty to do all that we can for the development of these youthful minds. But when we consider the nature of the human mind, and the grandeur of its destiny, its noble faculties already thrilling with the strivings of Divinity; and which may be fitted by culture to pass over all nature in triumph, observing all the creatures by which it is encompassed, and congratulate itself on its own superiority, and point out as proofs of its strength and greatness the changes which have been wrought by its