



ren rendered docile and quiet. The law cannot do the work of Alladin's Lamp, but it can sow the seed and nurse the tender plant until it develops its strength, and is ready for the harvest. We must counsel our people not to be impatient. To remember that the foundation is now being laid, and ere long the superstructure will appear. Let the foundation be well laid. Better disappoint those who are over anxious, than gratify them by a sudden and short-lived development.

Had not the base been laid by builders wise  
The Pyramids had never reached the skies.

Our motto is "to aim at the highest good with courage and with confidence," but we are willing to proceed slowly and cautiously. The General Assembly has given us a good law. With a few alterations it will be entirely adapted to our present wants. These alterations will not effect general principles. They concern minor details, will smooth down some roughness and remove seeming inconsistencies and verbal inaccuracies which naturally resulted from the changes made in the Committee and afterwards during debate in Senate and House. We have reason to feel a just pride in this law. It is proved by educationists of other States, and acknowledged to be not only a complete system, but to secure a greater degree of uniformity than has yet been attained by any similar enactment.

It is worthy of note that our legislators have in this law, come up to the full measure of duty, and instead of giving to the State a skeleton system, have enacted that which, with a few changes, can be adapted to the present and prospective necessities of our population. Such alterations and additions as may seem wise will be reported by the Committee appointed at the Convention of August 22 and 23. Besides verbal corrections, they chiefly concern the questions of local taxation for building school houses, the reading of the Holy Scripture at opening of school, the education of children employed in factories and a method by which a more regular attendance of pupils at school can be secured. To accomplish this and whatever else the Committee may suggest, we must endeavor to awaken in our legislature an earnest and enlightened zeal in the great cause of public instruction. It is the most important question of the day. Upon it the solution of the problem of our popular system of government depends. We must unite to sustain education. The work is committed to our hands. By every proper means, on all suitable occasions, and with all the weight of influence which we are able to exert, it is our duty to urge upon our people and legislative and executive officers their duty and privilege to make mental development keep pace with material progress, to have intelligence and prosperity advance with equal step, to exhibit to the world a people not only endowed with the right of self-government, but comprehending the