

to Professors of the State Normal School and to such other competent Teachers as the State Superintendent may appoint. It is designed to conduct these examinations according to a prescribed form, and to have all the necessary directions, with lists of questions, &c. issued by the State Superintendent, that, as far as practicable, there may be a fixed and uniform standard of merit throughout the Commonwealth, not the highest desirable standard, but one below which no applicant can fall and be accepted as qualified to teach.

In reply to criticisms, perhaps more severe than just, upon the incompetency of teachers; it has been said with as much truth as pleasantry, that the State has received a full return for what she has paid. Poor pay can claim only poor teachers.

It is certainly true that the salaries of teachers have been entirely inadequate to their comfortable support. A good mechanic and, lately, a day laborer earns better wages than the most faithful teacher in our County Schools. Outside of the City of Baltimore the salaries are small, and although the prices of the necessaries of life are more than two-fold, no addition has been made to the originally insufficient income. We must pay a liberal price to secure and retain competent instructors. Young men and women must be encouraged to prepare themselves for the duties of Public Instruction by the assurance of a fair recompense for their arduous and patient labor. This seems to have been forgotten, and teachers, like preachers, are expected to work for nothing.

If we seek for educated labor in any kind of business, the mechanic, the clerk, the lawyer, the physician; we do not get it without paying for it. We must pay with equal liberality for teachers unless we wish to drive men of talent and capacity from our State, and have inexperienced and illiterate pedagogues to take their places.

The teacher ought to be a gentleman, of good manners and good morals, a model of courtesy to the children. Such a teacher is of worth beyond price. Happy the