

from each county, under which, however, the committee regret to learn but few applications have been made.

At the late commencement, held on the 22nd February last, eight young gentlemen received diplomas, and the degree of Master of Arts was conferred upon seven alumni of the college, the graduates of former years.

The committee also examined, with much satisfaction, the mineralogical and geological cabinets. The inspection of the geological department was especially interesting, constituted as it is of specimens of the various ores and marls to be found within the borders of our own State, and which have been collected and arranged by the distinguished professor of that branch of science; they give evidence of sources of immense wealth, which cannot fail, when properly developed to conduce to the prosperity of the agricultural community.

The new apartment for the library is now finished and is used by the students for consulting and procuring the books. Your committee, however, deeply deplore the very meagre collection contained in this department and the unsuitable character of the volumes themselves to the purposes of the college: a large proportion of them consists of law books, a description of reading which, it will be readily conceived, cannot be very attractive to the students, nor calculated to promote their advancement in their regular studies. It would greatly contribute to the general usefulness, if the establishment of this defect were remedied, and the committee feel it to be their duty to recommend that the Legislature make an annual appropriation to be expended under the direction of the president for this most desirable purpose.

The committee have also to lament the continued deficiency which exists in the endowments of the college, so far as regards a Professorship of Education, one of whose duties it should be to educate and qualify young men as teachers in the primary schools throughout the State—in the present laudable anxiety which pervades the public mind for the general diffusion of education, it will be readily granted that well qualified teachers are most essential in order to carry out any system which may be adopted. It is not enough that a fund should be raised for the purpose of establishing such a system while it is spent, as it too often occurs, in the employment of mere adventurers, who are not identified with the community by any ties of gratitude or affection, but whose great object ever is to obtain a livelihood for themselves, while the intellectual and moral culture of our youth is regarded by them as a matter of secondary importance.

It is much to be lamented that the public mind has been so long satisfied with the very inferior qualities, whether as gentlemen or scholars, which characterise the instructors of our common schools, the great aim seems to have been directed more to the procuring such services at the very lowest rate of compensation, rather than to the unquestionably more important considerations of qualification for their duties and high integrity of character. Under such a state of things, it is not to be wondered at that the community has not appreciated the