

in the early stages of education. This is an absolutely unmanageable evil. It meets, and thwarts, and baffles, and disheartens, *at every point and in every department*, the most enthusiastic, energetic, and conscientious instructor. It is fast reducing us to be a nation of superficial sciolists and empty drivellers. It is a crack in the foundation which runs through the whole superstructure, mounts to the dome, and endangers all. We may plaister it over, ingeniously and skillfully, but the weakness remains. **WORSE STILL, AND WORST OF ALL**, the very attempt to hide the defect, recoils upon our moral nature, strikes in upon the inner man; and **SHOWY PRETENSE BECOMES INEVITABLY MORAL TURPITUDE.** Now the only remedy is a reform in the lower departments of instruction. This can be effected by the Normal School only; by the stricter methods, and the more accurate acquirements which it is enabled to enforce; thence it may be extended to the common school and the academy; and returning to the University in the person of pupils formerly trained in the Normal School, may constitute, in every class, a nucleus of trained, and disciplined minds around which others may gather, as examples of thorough and successful culture. The great design of education is not merely to communicate knowledge, but to discipline and invigorate the faculties; to render the mind, *not passively recipient, but reproductive.* For this purpose, the method adopted in every well directed Normal School, is not merely the *best*, but the only possible, or conceivable method. *Require the instant reproduction;* never allow the pupil to consider a subject mastered, until all the facts, principles, trains of reasoning, the whole process of investigation, can be distinctly stated in language satisfactory to himself, and intelligible to others. This habit formed in the Normal School, and transferred to every department of the University would, of itself, suffice to revolutionize our system of education, *and raise up a new race of thinkers, and men.*