

PEDAGOGICAL PAGE.

Devoted to the Interests of Teaching.
Thomas C. Amick, Ph. D., Editor.

THE OPENING OF THE SCHOOLS.

Since the last issue of the *Elon College Weekly*, *Elon College* has opened with the fullest attendance in the history of the institution. So far as we have learned all the colleges have had five openings. Thousands of young men and women who are to be the future citizenship of our state are now at work preparing themselves for the duties of actual life.

The fine opening of the schools and colleges augurs well for our state. It means that in the future we are to have a stronger and more vigorous manhood and womanhood in North Carolina than ever before. It means that our future leaders are to be better prepared for work and service. It means that North Carolina is to be put on higher vantage ground.

Not only have the colleges opened, but the graded and high schools are opening also. A number of them have increased their facilities for work, have larger and stronger corps of teachers and have a largely increased enrollment over last year. We trust that every teacher in these schools may feel that responsibility resting upon him. To train in right living and right thinking is one of the greatest works of life. Training should be accurate, it should mean something, it should be thorough. It rests with the teachers to make their training such as has been suggested.

So very often students who have taken the work in the graded and high schools come to college poorly prepared. This is especially true on the principal subjects such as English, Latin, Mathematics, and History. Throughout their freshman year students are hampered at every point and find themselves at a disadvantage because of their poor preparations. May we urge the teachers of these special branches to see to it that their pupils have thorough drill and preparation. It will be a glorious day for the schools in North Carolina when thorough work in these special branches is done.

The Private High Schools.

Most of them have opened also. There was a time when North Carolina was dotted with such schools, but as the State has taken hold of the matter of giving her sons and daughters the best elementary and high school training possible, these private high schools and academies have decreased in number. This is but a natural consequence of public education. When parents can prepare their sons and daughters for college and for life at home without extra cost of tuition and board, it is but natural that they should keep them there rather than send them away to school where they have to pay both tuition and board. The state high schools established all over the country give opportunity for education and training with but very little extra cost and most parents will send their children to these schools for their secondary education.

Hence the private high schools and institutions have generally opened with a decreased number of students and this will continue to be so until all such schools will either be turned into the channel of public schools or they will die.

That they may escape their inevitable fate, some of these schools have tried to sell out to churches or to the public school system. We would advise the churches not to undertake, for the result could be nothing but failure unless the church can place back of the school an endowment that will support and sustain the school in the years to come.

Some Things Needed By The Schools.

As the schools open, the teachers recognize certain needs, some of which they cannot get. Many a school needs better equipment. Let the teacher try to create a sentiment among the people to have a good school house, one equipped with the best and latest in furniture, blackboards, apparatus of such kinds as are needed, and to have the grounds in the best shape possible. A small addition should be made each year to the school library. Let the teacher formulate some plan by which money may be raised for this purpose. Every pupil in the school will do his best to help carry out the plan. A pay entertainment might be given, and a few dollars might be raised by personal solicitation among the friends and patrons of the school. Let our teachers do everything in their power to make this year one of the very best in the history of the schools of North Carolina. We believe it can be made so if the teachers will do their part.

The Teacher's Preparation.

We once heard of a Sunday school Superintendent's saying that a Sunday school teacher could not prepare himself for teaching without using a quarterly on class. We feel that the time has come when the teacher can prepare thoroughly for the work of teaching. Whether books shall or shall not be used by the teacher on class or not is a question of minor importance, but no teacher is prepared and qualified for teaching any subject unless the teaching can be done without a book. One reason why we have such poor results from our schools is that the teachers have not made proper preparation for their work. Until our teachers prepare themselves thoroughly, the work in the schools can only result in poorly equipping the pupils for the work that lies before them.

We plead for thorough preparation on the part of our teachers. We hope the results of this year's school work will show that this preparation has been better and fuller than ever before.

NIAGARA FALLS FROM A NEW POINT OF VIEW.

It seems that a great deal of valuable energy is being wasted in hysteria over the supposed wanton destruction of Niagara Falls.

We hear great tales of woe, with heavy sob effects, fernint the time when this beautiful cataract shall become a dribble and the wild rugged gorge shall be but a dirty, grinding workshop where a coterie of millionaires are enabled to pile up further hoards of unearned increment, to the detriment of all "the people."

I hold that whole volumes of this kind of gush can be very easily dispensed with or turned into other channels, without any injury to the body politic.

It seems strange to me that in all this discussion, we hear nothing whatever of the good to come to humanity from allow-

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ing this immense falls to work out its board and lodging.

Here we have a force of a sum total of 5,000,000 horse-power not doing one thing but tumbling down stairs and showing off its shape (the latter being at present in bad order and getting worse). But a very small part of this immense power is put to work to benefit man, while under proper management, fully two-thirds of it could be made available and the falls still left a thing of beauty and a joy forever. The works now using the water seem to have their outfalls on a very high level. Were these at a lower level, far less water would do the same work. Then look at the way the falls itself is wasting good material; there is that ugly V-shaped crotch in the "horse-shoe," where the water is now about twenty feet deep. Some aesthetic asses become very emotional over this fault, referring to it as the "great green heart." It reminds me more of a stomach, greedy and insatiable and bidding fair to soon ruin the whole show by eating back into the rock and soon forming a narrow sluice. To this feature, more than the power houses, can be attributed the shallowness of water on the other parts. My remedy is this: let the State of New York and the Province of Ontario jointly build large sluiceways

around the falls, their combined capacity great enough to accommodate all the water running over the falls. By diverting the water to them, the edge of the falls can be built up of concrete and trimmed off to a uniform level, so that one-third of the water would at all times keep the falls falling. If thought necessary, the coping could be made of vanadium steel, so as to insure against any wearing away of the bed and spoiling it. This would allow of an immense amount of energy to be available which would give employment to many people and furnish necessities of life to thousands at cheaper prices than if made by using coal and that without smutting up the country with smoke. In addition it would bring a good revenue to the State from the renting of water supply, and it wouldn't be any more difficult than for the Panama Canal engineers to take care of the Chagres River, or the Dutch engineers to keep out the Atlantic Ocean, or for the Dublin police to keep the loyal Irish from setting Ireland free. A strong, husky man looks far better when engaged in honest toil, making the world better for his existence, than when he is standing around a street corner showing off his shape, and I say the same of a waterfall.—Senex Smith, in *Scientific American*.