

INCORPORATED ACADEMIES NEEDED
IN IOWA.

THE common school system of Iowa, now sufficiently tried, as an experiment for academies, is a failure. Even the high school does not adequately prepare students for admission to the colleges and universities of the country. There is, therefore, an absolute necessity for founding regular academies to take the place of private schools, and even high schools in Iowa. Academies are needed to fit the young for college and the professional departments of our State University. Many enter the law and medical classes with a very inadequate knowledge of the very elements of liberal education and sound learning. They must become imperfect lawyers and physicians for want of a knowledge of the very first principles of science. The land flooded with such professional men would be a nuisance to society.

Academies are necessary to the higher institutions, as feeders, or supply sources, of collegiate education. Colleges and universities cannot do without them. Academies are also necessary for the general diffusion of higher education in every community of our State. One academy, like the New England grammar school, in every county is a growing necessity. For example, Denmark Academy, in Lee county, has promoted the higher education of more persons than all the colleges in Iowa. And it is questionable whether that institution, founded in 1840-50, by Rev. Asa Turner, and solely under Dr. Edson as principal, is not a higher post of usefulness than any college in Iowa, Grinnell not excepted, where the doctor is now installed as professor. It was under him the Rugby school of all Iowa.

Many scholars cannot afford the expense of colleges and universities away from home. And many men of distinction have had only the privileges of an academy. Such was the case with Stephen A. Douglas. So eminent has he become. He was a graduate from Canandaigua Academy, under

Henry Howe, A.M., as principal; and the writer of this article had the honor during the illness of his brother, the principal, to take his place, when quite young in school-keeping. And the writer taught Stephen A. Douglas, afterwards the third candidate for the presidency of the United States, who preferred Lincoln's election to that of Breckenridge. Ex-Lieutenant-Governor Gue of Iowa, also, was a graduate of Canandaigua Academy at a later day. From such examples learn the great need of academies.

The time has come when the Legislature of Iowa should set apart funds for academies like the State of New York, as a *literary fund for higher education*. The common school fund is large enough. Indeed, it were better if the district free school system made each district or sub-district raise its incidental expenses as a measure of economy. As it now goes, every petty district must hire fires and sweeping done. It did not use to be so in our teaching days. It is very easy to vote away the people's money, but when the expenses come out of men's own pockets, they will practice some economy.

The principal of Canandaigua Academy above named, Henry Howe, A.M., as chairman of a committee of the State Association in 1849, made a careful estimate of the comparative cost of normal schools and academies which had normal departments and State aid, in New York. For normal school graduates or teachers it cost the State from fifty to one hundred dollars each. And the academies thus aided by the Regents' funds cost for each pupil only seven dollars—a vast saving of state money, while academies had a wider range or course of studies than the State Normal School.

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