

The first part of the paper is devoted to a general  
 consideration of the principles which should govern  
 the construction of a system of public instruction.  
 It is shown that the chief object of such a system  
 should be to afford to every individual the means  
 of acquiring the knowledge and habits necessary  
 to enable him to perform his duty as a citizen  
 and as a member of society. It is also shown that  
 the system should be adapted to the capacities and  
 dispositions of the different classes of the  
 community, and that it should be so constructed  
 as to afford to every individual the opportunity  
 of improving himself in the liberal arts and  
 sciences, and of acquiring the habits of industry  
 and frugality. The author then proceeds to  
 consider the various methods of instruction which  
 have been proposed, and to show the advantages  
 and disadvantages of each. He concludes by  
 recommending a system of public instruction  
 which should be founded on the principles  
 which he has just stated, and which should be  
 so constructed as to afford to every individual  
 the means of acquiring the knowledge and habits  
 necessary to enable him to perform his duty as  
 a citizen and as a member of society.