

## WIPE OUT ILLITERACY.

(W. P. Walton).

The effort to wipe out the stigma of so large a per cent of illiteracy in Kentucky, inaugurated by a consecrated woman in moonlight schools in Rowan County, has filled all who are concerned in the educational uplift of the State with enthusiasm and a determination to do their best to take Kentucky out of the unenviable place that she occupies in the proportion of illiterates.

The movement is spreading like wild fire and if kept up the old commonwealth will soon stand at the head of the class in education instead of being at the foot. Old and young have joined in the effort with equal enthusiasm, which bids fair to be productive of the best results. In these times of many public schools there ought not to be any excuse for not securing at least a knowledge of some of their branches, but such advantages were not always obtainable and there is some reason for the failure of some to have secured an education, even if it does seem strange that any one in this enlightened day would be willing to pass through life unable to read or write. It is especially for the benefit of this class that the present movement is made and to their credit be it said many are even at very advanced ages taking advantage of the opportunity presented in the moonlight schools.

Large sums have been raised in Louisville and other cities to prosecute the campaign against illiteracy and Lexington is now called on to do her part and true to her reputation we are sure it will not be in vain. We can all help and we will be untrue to ourselves and State if we do not contribute to a cause that means so much to the present and future of the State.

The movement started by Mrs. Cora Wilson Stewart is distinctively a woman's movement. Women are always first in every effort for moral and educational uplift and it behooves the men not to let their effort fail. That they are responding nobly to the good cause and are showing their full appreciation of the women's efforts, is creditable.

The effect of the movement will not only be for the present. It will tell on future generations as it will implant a new spirit and a new conscience and educational institutions will no longer have to seek for patronage. They will be sought and an educational interest everywhere aroused that will make for the reputation and prosperity of the State. With more people educated there will be less crime as well as less pauperism. While Kentucky expends much on her schools there is not that advantage derived from them that should be. Compulsory attendance should be strictly enforced, merit and not favoritism should govern the appointment of teachers, the school term should be lengthened and a higher standard observed. The fight on illiteracy may be depended upon to cure all of the evils that now affect the public school system and the good will therefore be great and cumulative.

Of Mrs. Stewart, it can be truly said that while many women have done well she has excelled them all. A crown of glory and a monument even greater than have been built for our eminent statesman will be hers. Let her glorious example be emulated and the stigma of illiteracy will be wiped from the State that should not have per-

mitted it so long. We must educate  
all the people or we may perish.

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