

[For the Messenger.]  
**Education of The Rising Generation.**

MR. EDITOR: Please allow me, through your invaluable paper, to give to the people of Pickens County some expression to my feelings in regard to the all-important question, "The education of the young and rising generation."

A little more than a century ago the land we now inhabit was a desolate region, with tribes of Indians scattered here and there who were but very little more refined and intelligent than the wild beasts which they hunted. But now where such things once reigned we see fruitful fields of magnificent grain, comfortable dwellings, splendid towns and cities, railroads with their trains running from city to city, over plains and through mountains, carrying commerce of the country, and the telegraph wires that enable us to talk as if face to face with those who are hundreds of miles away. All such blessings are the fruits of educated minds. All of which to unnumbered would be the same as to count the stars in the heavens, and the grains of sand upon the sea-shore.

In this progressive age can be seen on all sides signs of improvement. On the farm, in the work-shop and in our houses may be found laboring implements and machinery. All of which adds greatly to our convenience and happiness, and are either directly or indirectly the results of education. Then let us as a county, yea, as a people, look forward to the all important question which is before us. There is nothing that should claim more of our attention than the education of the young and rising generation. The destiny of our country depends upon it either for weal or woe.

Now, Mr. Editor, I hope as I am a candidate for School Commissioner you will allow me to give my views in regard to the duties of said officer, and what I will endeavor to carry out, if elected to said office. I think the salary of said officer sufficient to amply pay him for all his time, therefore I think he should devote his whole time (if necessary) to the duties of said office and more especially while the public schools are in session in visiting the schools, &c. I think that good often comes from a commissioner visiting the schools under his charge. When they know he is coming it makes them more active and energetic so they may acquit themselves well when he comes. Otherwise (in some schools) they often become careless and negligent, and the good is not accomplished that would be from his visits.

We often hear persons inquiring after school teachers, those whom they can get to teach by the year. I believe that a commissioner should always keep himself posted on this matter, and be ready (if possible) at all times to cite any community to good and efficient teachers. I think it would be well for him to hold town-ship meetings and there meet and consult the people, and try to devise some plan whereby the educational interests of the county may be best promoted. His board meetings and the awarding of certificates should be managed in such a way that will give equal justice to all parties, there not being a shadow of discrimination (if possible) connected with them. A School Commissioner should have the co-operation of the people as much as possible in this matter of educating the children; without it he cannot do the good he otherwise would do. It is a matter we all should feel a great interest in, in view of the fact that they may be prepared for the great responsibility that will soon rest upon them, both in Church and State. We must educate them; it is a duty we owe them, and it is something they have a right to expect of us, both in a moral and a legal point of view. Now if we fail to do this we will be held ac-

countable before God and man, and our names will go down to future ages as those who failed to do their duty towards their children.

Pickens county is looked upon as being behind some other sections of the State in the way of education, which should not be the case; we should go on in this great and noble work until we are not only in the front rank, but until we as a county becomes a leader to other sections.

One other matter as it presents itself to my mind, and I have done. I was born and raised in Pickens county, was raised on the farm, but I trust none the worse for that and that I will make you none the worse Commissioner, if elected. It is true that my opportunity for an education has been somewhat limited. But I think I have sufficient to fill the office as the law requires. I have education enough to see the need of an education, and to do all in my power that your children may climb to the very topmost round of that ladder that leads to a complete and finished education.

Respectfully,  
 LABAN MAULDIN.  
 Pickens Sentinel please copy.

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