

. . . And Learn Too Late That Demagogues Betray . . .

... "While the high school was a new thing and while a few enlightened citizens had the control of it, in numerous instances it was carried to a high state of perfection. But after a time the burden of taxation would begin to be felt. Men would discuss the high salaries paid to the accomplished teachers which such schools demand, and would ask, 'To what purpose is this waste?'

"Demagogues, keen-scented as wolves, would snuff the prey. 'What do we want of a high school to teach rich men's children?' they would shout. 'It is a shame to tax the poor man to pay a man \$1,800 to teach children to make x's and pot-hooks and gabble parley-vous.'

"The work would go bravely on; and on election day, amid great excitement a new school committee would be chosen, in favor of retrenchment and popular rights. In a single day the fruit of years of labor would be destroyed.

Such occurrences, it was ascertained, had already become sufficiently numerous to excite alarm among the most intelligent friends of education. Even in communities where the high school had been uniformly prosperous, it appeared that the same influence was at work and awakened constant apprehension."

Let us not suppose that it is a new trick for politicians to draw a red herring across the trail. The above paragraphs are taken from an address by Dr. John P. Gulliver, delivered at the dedication of the Norwich (Conn.) Free Academy in October, 1856.