"An open school house, free to all, evidences the highest type of advanced civilization. It is the gateway to progress, prosperity and honor and the best security for the liberties and independence of the people. It is the strongest rock of the foundation, the most enduring stone of the temple of liberty; our surest stay in every storm, our present safety, our future hope—ay, the very citadel of our influence and power. It is better than garrisons and guns, than forts and fleets."
—WILLIAM McKinley.