

room. Perhaps the subject was not a congenial one, or perhaps his audience expected too much.

In the evening Dr. Hodgins, Deputy-Minister of Education, delivered an earnest and practical address on the subject "A Plea for Elementary Science and Industrial Training." The lecturer supported his "plea" by forcible arguments, and by quotations from eminent writers of America, Britain, and the Continent of Europe. The teachers were glad to welcome the Deputy-Minister on the platform at their meeting, away from the chilling atmosphere of official life, which seems to freeze "the genial currents of his soul," and were gratified to find him extend that aid which, with a little more enthusiasm, would become potent for good in directing aright the educational progress of the country. The address bore fruit at the meeting by the adoption of a resolution declaring that a knowledge of some branches of Physical Science should be required from all candidates

for teachers' certificates. This was evidently aimed at the option granted at present to candidates for Intermediate Certificates, of choosing for examination either a Language or the Natural Science group, which includes Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, and Book-keeping.

The meeting concluded its proceedings on Saturday by a general discussion on Needlework and on Corporal Punishment. Plain sewing was very strongly insisted upon as being most valuable and useful for those attending our public schools; and, for the sake of effectual teaching, it was suggested that the same kind of sewing should be practised by each scholar of a class at the same time. Nothing new could hardly be expected to be said on such a threadbare subject as that of corporal punishment; the point that the meeting was most united upon was that the influence and authority of the parent should be more frequently invoked to assist the teacher in managing refractory scholars.

## HIGH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

THE following correspondence has been handed to us for publication:—

TORONTO, 18th Sept., 1879.

SIR,—I am directed by the Honourable the Minister of Education, to state, in reply to your letter of the 27th ultimo, that he has fully considered the Resolutions of the High School Masters' Section of the Ontario Teachers' Association, forwarded him on the 27th ultimo by you as chairman of that Section.

The Minister concurs in the opinion of the Masters as to the time of holding the Intermediate Examination, and also as to distinguishing between those who pass the Intermediate Examination simply, and candidates for Class II. Certificates.

The other matters have been referred to the Central Committee for their report (a copy of which I am directed to furnish you for the information of the High School Masters.)

The Minister has instructed the Chairman of the Committee that in the Mathematical

subjects, the examination, even for Class II. certificates should be kept within the present standard, if not still lower. The report discusses very fully some of the points specially raised by the High School Masters, and the Minister submits this for their consideration.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ALEX. MARLING,  
*Secretary.*

J. SEATH; Esq., M.A.,  
Chairman, High School Section,  
Ontario Teachers' Association,  
St. Catharines.

TORONTO, 12th September, 1879.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Seath's letter of the 27th of August, forwarding certain resolutions passed by the High School Masters' Section of the Provincial Teachers' Association, on which you desire me to express an opinion.