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## CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER:

	PAGE
I. TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS AND THE PROFESSION IN UPPER CANADA...	145
II. PAPERS ON TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS.—(1) Upper Canada Teachers' Association. (2) Meeting of Wentworth School Teachers. (3) West Northumberland Teachers' Association. (4) Hillier and Ameliasburg Teachers' Association. (5) The Associated Teachers of Elgin. (6) The Provincial Association of Protestant Teachers of Lower Canada. (7) British Teachers' Association .....	146
III. PAPERS ON THE TEACHER.—(1) The Teacher's Calling. (2) The Position of Teachers. (3) Difficulties of Young Teachers.....	155
IV. PAPERS ON CANADIAN SCHOOLS.—(1) Dinner to David Mills, Esq. (2) Compulsory Attendance at Schools.....	157
V. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.—54. Thomas Sandilands, Esq. 55. Aggulalness, or Joseph Martin. 56. Sir George Brown, K.C.B. 57. Professor Aytoun.....	158
VI. MISCELLANEOUS.—(1) Arnault's Withered Leaf. (2) Autumn. (3) Autumn Leaves.....	159
VII. EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.—County Wentworth Teacher's Association. Queen's University, Kingston. Queen's University, Victoria University, The Belleville Seminary. Episcopal Church School for Girls. IN MEMORIAM: Rev. R. Flood, M.A. ....	159
DEPARTMENTAL NOTICES.....	160

## TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS AND THE PROFESSION IN UPPER CANADA.

In this number of the *Journal* we insert an account of the proceedings of the late Teachers' Association for Upper Canada, deferred from last month. We also insert other papers on kindred subjects, indicative of the increased importance and vitality of the profession of teaching in this province. We are glad to see that the teachers of the country are thus aiming to elevate the character of their own profession; and we sincerely trust that no mere desire to theorise or to deal with practical questions in a narrow or impractical spirit will induce them to risk the popularity and influence which, as a body, they are gradually acquiring. Not only have the standards of the profession been gradually raised in the Normal School, under the able management of its instructors, but the various County Boards of Public Instruction have also sought to keep pace with the requirements of the country, and to permit none but duly qualified teachers to remain in the position of a teacher in our Common Schools. The new Grammar School Amendment Act has further declared that, with the exception of the masters now engaged in the schools, none but those who have received a University education shall hereafter be employed as Head Masters of Grammar Schools.

It must also be a matter of satisfaction to the masters and teachers of the Grammar and Common Schools to notice that some of the recent changes affecting their profession, which have been made through the agency of the Department of Public Instruction, are calculated to promote their interests and to advance the status of their profession. One of these changes re-

lates to the right which has been conferred upon the teacher to devote a school week in each year, at his option, to visit other schools, and to note the modes of teaching and methods of organization and discipline pursued therein, so as to compare them with their own, and to gather experience from them. Another change provides a summary, and as experience shows, a satisfactory method for head masters of Grammar Schools and teachers of Common Schools in cities, towns, and incorporated villages, of settling all disputes with trustees in regard to salary or any other such matters. Other changes beneficial to the masters and teachers, in regard to remuneration and permanency of employment, have been made, or are in contemplation. In the administration of the school law, and in the columns of this journal, the aim of the Department has been to maintain the authority and just claims of the teacher on the one hand, and on the other, to impress upon him the importance and responsibility of his position, and the reasonableness of the claims which the trustees have upon him to honourably and faithfully perform his duty in the school-room, and thus aid them in their gratuitous performance of an arduous and often thankless task on behalf of the public.

We note with pleasure the number of County, Circuit, and Township Associations which the teachers have established in various parts of the Province. In this number we have inserted, as we usually do, such reports of their proceedings as we have been able to select from local papers. It is satisfactory to observe the practical character of these Associations; and the nature of the papers read and discussions which take place in them on various subjects relating to the profession of teaching and kindred topics. We also insert from time to time, such extracts from these papers or discussions as we deem may best promote the objects the Department has in view in the publication of this *Journal*. We shall also be glad to insert, as heretofore, any communications from Teachers relating to educational subjects which may be interesting or instructive in their character.

It is much to be regretted that teachers generally on their part have not thus far, by their subscriptions, responded to the liberality of the legislature in providing for them a superannuation fund. On this subject we shall not say anything further at present, but simply direct the attention of teachers to the departmental regulations on the subject, which will be usually found on the last page of each number of this *Journal*.