

### THE INTERPROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL CONVENTION.

The first united convention of the teachers of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island was held in St. John, in the third week of July, 1888. The gathering was a thoroughly representative one, including not only every department of education in the three provinces, but distinguished educationists from England, United States and Upper Canada. The presence of Sir Wm. Dawson, Dr. J. G. Fitch, Dr. J. G. Schurman, Col. Parker and Mrs. Parker, with other noted men and women will make the gathering one long to be remembered; while the opportunity for the interchange of ideas among our teachers marks a new era in our educational progress.

#### OPENING OF THE CONVENTION AND PUBLIC RECEPTION.

The St. John Mechanics' Institute was tolerably well filled at the time appointed for opening the Convention, on Tuesday evening, July 17th. As a preliminary step to organization, Inspector Oakes, of Canterbury, N. B., was appointed temporary chairman. He appointed a nominating committee as follows: Principals Mullin, Anderson, McKay, of Pictou, G. U. Hay and Prof. Eaton. This committee, through Principal Mullin, nominated the following officers for the Convention: President, Dr. Allison, Superintendent of Education for Nova Scotia; Vice-presidents, Superintendent Crocket, of New Brunswick, and Superintendent Montgomery, of P. E. Island; General Secretary and Treasurer, John March; Recording Secretary, L. A. McKenna, of Dartmouth, N. S.; Enrollment Secretaries, Supervisor McKay, of Halifax, H. C. Creed, of Fredericton, and Geo. E. Robinson, of P. E. Island. On motion, Dr. Allison's nomination was approved. Inspector Oakes introduced Dr. Allison, who took his place and thanked the Convention for the honor conferred. The nomination of the other officers was approved as made.

At eight o'clock, every seat in the Institute was filled and on the platform were seated the representatives of educational institutions of the three provinces, as well as distinguished visitors from abroad. Dr. Allison, President of the Convention, after a brief address, vacated the chair, which was taken by His Worship, Mayor Thorne, of St. John, who, in a brief address, welcomed the visitors in a few well chosen words. After alluding to the great advance in education in these provinces and the opportunity that this convention would afford for the interchange of helpful ideas, he said that no pleasanter duty had ever devolved upon him than of tendering a welcome on behalf of the city to the visitors. He was followed by Mayor Chesley, of

Portland, who cordially extended a greeting on behalf of the City of Portland.

Judge King, of St. John, said: It was a matter of gratification to him that this, the first Interprovincial Teachers' Institute, was to be presided over by one who was his companion at school and college, and his life-long friend—Dr. Allison. There had been a degree of organic union brought about between the teachers of the provinces during the last year by that excellent periodical—the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW—which it had been his pleasure for some time to peruse. Now there would be the closer union of contact, deliberation and conference, from which much good must come. This body of teachers embraced as large a proportion of able men as adorn and dignify any body of men anywhere. In this connection the speaker made special reference to Sir William Dawson, and to the province of Nova Scotia, whose singular fortune it had been to present to the world great men in an almost undue proportion. If this Convention left a livelier sense of the value of the teacher's work it would have fulfilled a great and important object. He hoped the visitors' stay would prove pleasant. They would find a certain picturesqueness of scenery, and there would be a certain interest, too, to see how a people settled down on this barren rock had progressed and developed institutions around them. And he hoped their pleasures would not be marred by a visit from the dense fogs generated on the coast of Nova Scotia. (Laughter). What is it that makes an assemblage of teachers such as this notable? You are not here to form a trust—to use the term in the commercial sense by which a grand old word has been degraded and defiled. You are not here to enhance the price of your wares, though in truth you are not likely to have their value over-rated. Nor are you here merely to discuss methods and theories, however important these may be. Your most important aim is to affect conduct, and the greatest residuum that will be left when you are done will be that which touches the heart and life of the teachers. Organization is valuable, but the personal element in education is of the first importance. The first is machinery, the second is force. The teacher is at once a scholar and an instructor. It is out of the fulness of scholarship and the desire to impart knowledge that the teaching faculty comes, and both the former are essential to the latter. He hoped that the intellectual inspiration arising from this convention would prove of value to all; but remembering the words of a great and wise lawyer and judge—wise because he was a lawyer and judge—(laughter)—Lord Bacon—he would conclude lest it be said of him, "An over-speaking judge is no well tuned cymbal." (Applause).